

## BL dispute spreads as talks fail

Four hundred BL-Allegro car assemblers voted to join the 1,800 Metro and Mini workers on strike over a move to cut tea breaks. Talks on the dispute broke down with both sides more entrenched than ever. Shop stewards told the management that the breaks were sacrosanct. They were united in rejecting a reduction.

## Shadow Cabinet clash

# Obey the rules or go, Foot tells Benn

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

## New car deal with Honda

BL and Honda are to produce another new car jointly. Mr Ray Horrocks, BL cars chairman, is to announce the deal in Tokyo a month after the launch of the Triumph Acclaim, BL's version of the Honda Balade. Page 15

## Strike threat over ferry closure

A series of sporadic strikes on P & O ships last night, month may be recommended by the National Union of Seamen in an attempt to force the company to negotiate over the Liverpool-Belfast ferry service, which has been officially closed. Page 2

## Opposition to joint Irish body

The Irish side of the Anglo-Irish talks have met strong resistance to their wish for an inter-parliamentary body comprising elected representatives from Belfast, Dublin and London. The report is refreshingly frank about misconceptions affecting relations between the two countries. Page 2

## Moscow rejects Swedish protest

The Soviet government has bluntly rejected Sweden's protest over the intrusion of a Soviet submarine into its territorial waters and accused Stockholm of distorting the truth. An official note says that Sweden's allegations about the submarine's activities were "absurd". Page 9

## Profits again at Woolworth

F. W. Woolworth's chairman reported a 24.5m profit for the third quarter, wiping out its 21.4m loss in the previous six months. The profit was made in the nine months to October 31, the group made profits of £3.4m in the same period last year. Page 15

## England start on a winning note

England's cricketers got off to the best possible start on their tour of India when they beat the CCI President's XI by 47 runs in a one-day match in Bombay. Cook set up the victory with a snuburn innings of 55. Page 21

## Castro warns of US intervention

In a letter to the Washington Post, President Fidel Castro said American reports of Cuban troops in Nicaragua were part of a campaign of lies by the United States Government. The purpose of it was to set the stage for an American intervention in Cuba, he claimed. Page 8

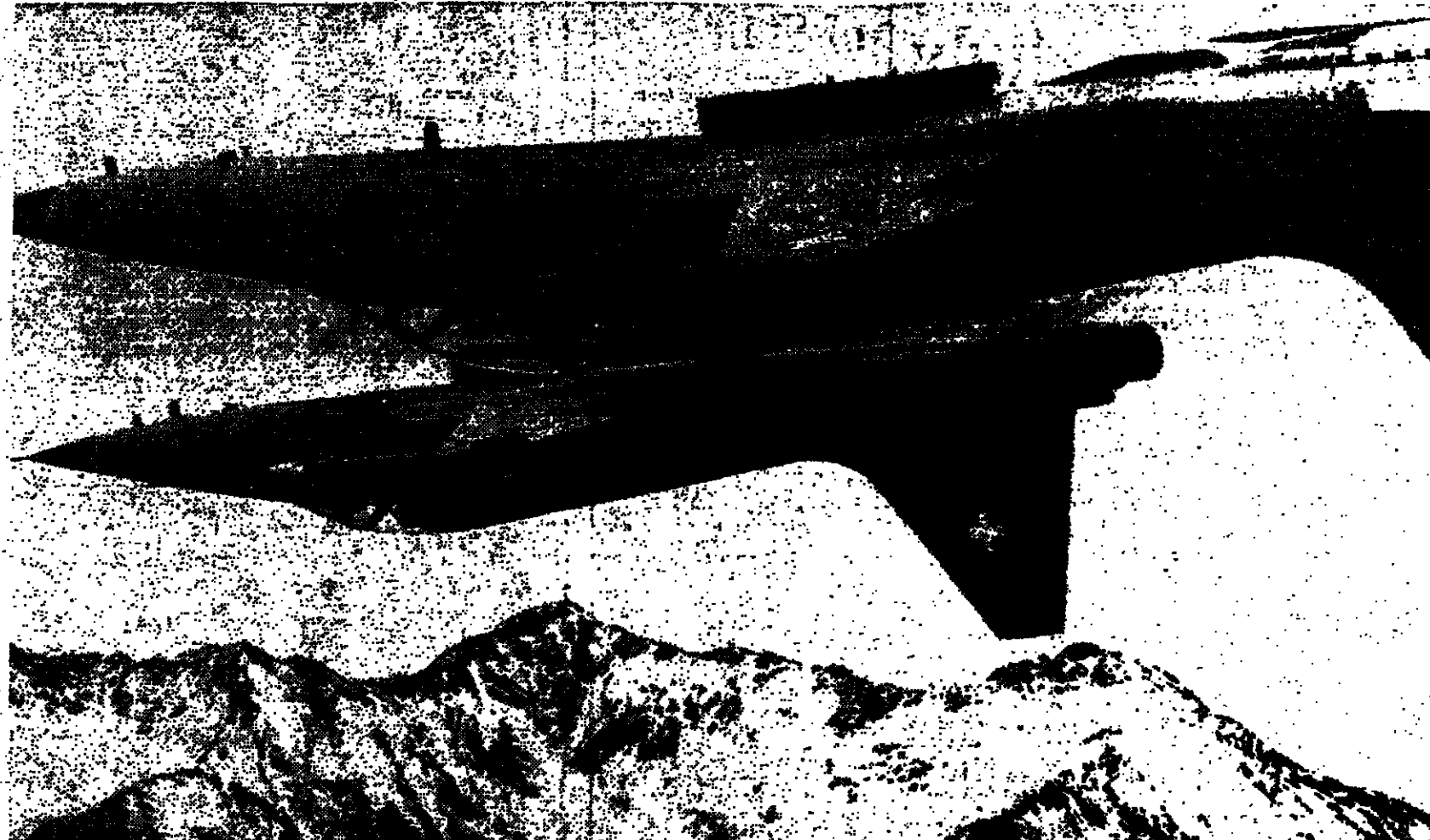
## Queen's Speech endorsed

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Peak viewing: Swiss Air Force pilots flip over the Alpine scenery. The aircraft are Northrop F5 "Tigers", documented in a new film, *Tigres Helveticus*.

## Civil Service Department axed by Thatcher

By Philip Webster and Peter Hennessy

In the biggest shake-up of the machinery of government in Whitehall since 1968, Mrs Margaret Thatcher will announce today the disbandment of the Civil Service Department and the dispersal of its functions to the Treasury and the Cabinet Office.

The principal reason for the change, long debated within the Government but hitherto avoided, is the Prime Minister's determination to take firmer control over Civil Service pay, manpower, and efficiency.

The changes will involve the premature retirement of Sir Ian Bancroft, head of the home Civil Service and his number two, Sir John Herbeck, second permanent secretary to the CSD. Sir Ian was due to retire in December next year and Sir John next May.

A new body attached to the Cabinet Office, to be called the office of personnel management, will be established. Sir Robert Armstrong, secretary of the Cabinet, will add to his already important functions, responsibility for senior appointments to the civil and public services and looks likely to assume the leadership of the Civil Service.

The Whitehall debate that has gone on since 1976, has finally been resolved with the reshaping of the heart of the Government machine, along lines proposed by Sir Derek Rayner, joint managing director of Marks and Spencer, and the Prime Minister's adviser on the elimination of waste.

Sir Derek temporarily lost the argument a year ago when the CSD was put on probation by the Prime Minister rather than disbanded.

The dispersal of the CSD's functions will serve primarily to extend the Treasury's grip to embrace both public spending and pay. It reflects Sir Derek's conviction that substantial strides towards more efficient Whitehall cannot be made without a fusion of the elements that combine to make a potentially fitter and leaner central bureaucracy.

The Cabinet is already preparing its position for next year's Civil Service pay negotiations. Ministers are convinced that the Treasury will prove to be much tougher than the CSD was under Lord Soames, the former Lord President of the Council, during this year's dispute.

The removal of Lord Soames from office in Mrs Thatcher's September reshuffle has paved the way for today's announcement, for he was known to be opposed to such a disbandment. The Prime Minister was also unhappy over his handling of the pay dispute.

## Rates Bill falters as Tory revolt grows

By Our Political Editor

The conviction that the Government will soon move to appease Conservative critics of its Bill to restrict rate increases grew at Westminster last night after Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, was warned by the executive of the 1922 Committee that it had no chance of getting through as it stood.

It was the second time in successive days that Mr Heseltine had been called before influential backbench groups and faced critical examination of his proposals.

The 1922 executive—the senior backbench body—gave Mr Heseltine and his Minister of State, Mr Tom King, a courteous hearing and great deal of firm advice in an interview which lasted some 90 minutes.

The two ministers then went straight to Downing Street to join a small meeting, with the Prime Minister in the chair. They considered the Bill's prospects and the immediate danger of a damaging reverse when the Commons today debates the principles behind the Bill, on an Opposition motion.

It was notable that a majority of those at the meeting, attended by all those concerned with getting the Government's business through Parliament, have expressed grave misgivings over the Bill. They include Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, Mr Francis Pym, leader of the Commons, Mr Michael Jobling, the chief whip and Lady Young, leader of the Lords.

Anxiety on the part of the Government about a rebellion among Tory MPs was indicated today from the Foreign Office, that Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State responsible for the Middle East, had cancelled a visit to Washington.

The reason was given as pressure of parliamentary business. A Foreign Office spokesman said Mr Hurd was required to vote at the end of tomorrow's debate.

Many Conservative MPs, in common with some Tory-controlled councils, regard the Government's proposals as a gross interference into the autonomy of local councils.

Some Tory MPs have already given notice that they will abstain in the vote. A few might even vote against the Government. Mrs Thatcher and Mr Michael Heseltine, the Environment Secretary, are regarding the debate as a test of the support they can expect when the Bill itself is debated.

But some Conservatives are known as being in a firing line on a vote which will have no constitutional effect, in the hope of hoodwinking the Government into thinking they can get their Bill through.

If the vote for the Government today is narrow, party managers may decide to dilute the Bill to ensure that it becomes law. But the news from Downing Street last night was that the Opposition motion would be defeated easily, even though some Tory MPs have committed themselves publicly to abstain, if not to oppose the policy.

## PLO snubs Britain over 'slur'

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, Nov 11

Lord Carrington may be able to state the conditions upon which he would meet Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman, but Mr Arafat, it seems, is no longer interested in talking to the British Foreign Secretary.

At a press conference in Damascus, the PLO spokesman said the organization was prepared to hold discussions with any British official, including Mrs Margaret Thatcher, but Lord Carrington's "black hatred" towards the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Mr Abdul Mohsen Abu-Maizer condemned the British Prime Minister for linking the PLO with terrorism and for calling upon the PLO to recognize Israel. "These statements," he said, "reveal a black hatred and evil intentions towards the rights of the Palestinian people."

"The United Kingdom Government knows very well that the PLO has repeatedly reiterated its respect for international law, and its condemnation of the official and organized terrorism perpetrated by Israel."

These sound like strong words, but such fiery rhetoric also forms part of the prelude to the Arab summit in Morocco later this month, at which the PLO will be asked to recognize Israel. But for the moment, it looks as though Lord Carrington will have to choose less painful conditions for any meetings he plans to have with Mr Arafat.

Since many European countries already recognize that the PLO represents at least a section of the Palestinian people, Mr Arafat probably has little to gain by meeting Lord Carrington, especially when the British were involving themselves with the Camp David peace process.

According to Mr Abu-Maizer, a European envoy which called on the PLO to recognize Israel was "an attempt to liquidate the Palestinian cause". The PLO knows that recognition will eventually have to be made if it is to participate in peace negotiations with Israel. But for the moment, it looks as though Lord Carrington will have to choose less painful conditions for any meetings he plans to have with Mr Arafat.

## Livingstone says London Transport facing break up if rates appeal is lost

By Sarah Segrave

London Transport will be heading towards total disintegration if the House of Lords decides against the Greater London Council's appeal for its cheaper fares policy, Mr Kenneth Livingstone, the council's leader, said last night.

A sympathetic audience of some 120 members of the Camden Town Amenity and Transport Group listened to Mr Livingstone speak on the dire consequences of the "Fares Fair" policy being abolished.

On Tuesday Lord Denning and two other judges of the Court of Appeal found that the council had acted illegally in subsidising fares through a supplementary levy.

Yesterday, Mr Livingstone predicted that within six months of that judgment taking effect, London Transport would be well on the way to a skeleton service for the poor and deprived which operates in cities as far as Los Angeles.

"People are just going to give up and say this is the end of London Transport," he said. "This would be used more often, causing more congestion on the roads, more loss in the amenities, and greater disruption of people's lives."

The Law Lords must realize that they are taking a decision that will have a major impact on the lives of every man, woman and child in London. "If they get that decision wrong, they are doing irreparable damage to the quality of life."

Mr Livingstone was applauded as he said that in the first month of the cheaper fares passengers on the buses had increased by 12 per cent and on the underground by 6 per cent. All that would go if the policy was abolished. Fares would have to be higher than ever before in London and staff would have to be cut.

Since May, 1,200 staff had been recruited to London Transport and Mr Livingstone was confident that he was on course for a fully manned service, fulfilling the promise of a bus every 10 or 20 minutes, if that was what the fare offered.

That was dependent on current policy. If it went, Mr Livingstone said, London Transport would immediately have to reduce the service and get rid of staff.

Although fares have been cut by his administration, Mr Livingstone had reservations about a free transport system. Staff were still needed to operate the Routemasters, and the ability to jump on and off buses for a couple of stops would still slow the traffic down.

Mr Livingstone, who tape-recorded the whole of his speech, said that Lord Denning, in his ruling, had done nothing to improve public life. "I would not mind if people who did not implement their election pledges got this sort of clobbering," he said.

He also had critical words on the press coverage. "Almost all of it was ill-informed and bigoted."

Council subsidies, page 2

## Miners to consider 9.13% pay offer today

By Donald MacIntyre, Labour Correspondent

Miners' leaders will today consider a "final" pay offer valued at 9.13 per cent and setting a new target for other powerful public sector groups.

The £300m package, giving some higher-paid faceworkers rises of over 10 per cent, will be put by miners' negotiators to the National Union of Mineworkers' executive at a meeting in London this morning.

The union side of the joint negotiating body declined to make a formal commitment last night, but Mr Joseph Gormley, the union president, was unequivocal in recommending the improved offer.

"I think there is not another halfpenny we can screw out of the board on this occasion," he said. "I think we have done pretty well to get this out of the board."

Leaving negotiators left the talks without declaring their hand, but they may argue today that the offer should be referred to a recalled NUM conference.

Mr Gormley will press strongly today for the executive to put the offer, yielding average weekly earnings increases of between 12.35 and 110.0%, directly to a pithead ballot with a recommendation to accept.

The narrow right-wing majority on the executive would normally be expected to carry the day in favour of the proposal, although Mr Gormley acknowledged last night that next month's presidential election, in which three moderate candidates are standing against Mr Arthur Scargill, had created a different climate.

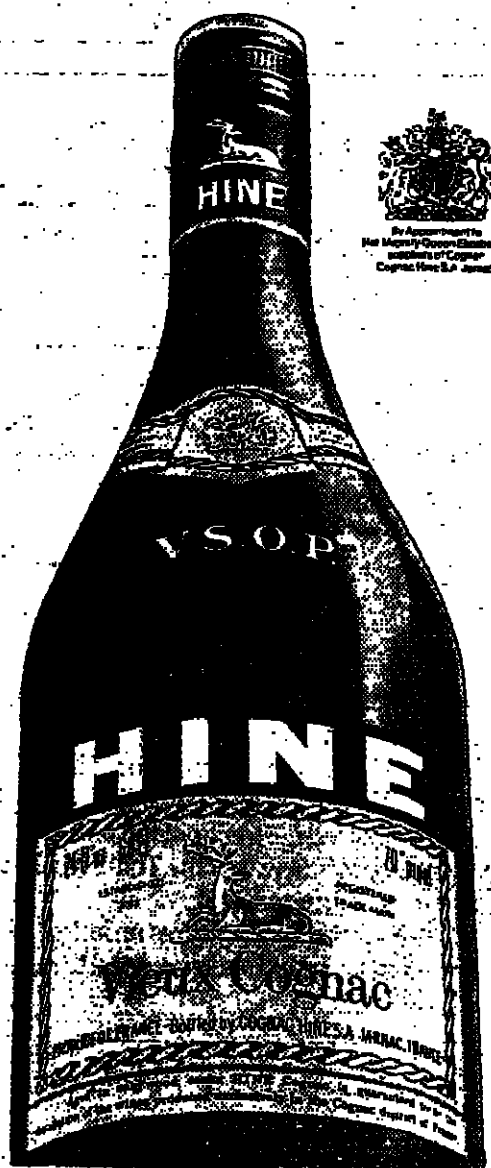
Mr Gormley said: "With or even without a recommendation the lads will have the good sense to accept it."

The deal on offer is well over double the 4 per cent norm set by the Cabinet for four million public service workers, which ministers have made clear they also want taken into account across the whole public sector.

While ministers will be relieved that the offer, falling well short of the miners' 23.7 per cent claim, is, according to the NUM, within double figures, it is bound to see a target for groups like power supply, gas, water, and railway workers.

Continued on back page, col 1

## Hine. The connoisseurs' cognac.





**Science report**  
**Starlight**  
**clue to**  
**Neptune's**  
**moons**

**By the Staff of "Nature"**

By the Staff of "Nature"

Astronomical observations made of the distant planet Neptune passing in front of an even more distant star seem to suggest that the planet has a previously undetected moon. The new moon, which orbits the giant planet, are known as Triton. Discovered in 1846, Triton is bigger than our own Moon; and Nereid, 150,000 miles across and discovered in 1949.

The new moon was discovered on a recent night while searching for rings around Neptune. Saturn, once thought to be the only planet in the solar system with rings around it, must now be classed with Jupiter and Uranus. Their rings, however, which were discovered recently, and since all found big planets, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune (naming from the Sun outwards) are rather slight, being big areas of gas. It was reasonable to guess that Neptune might have a ring too.

So Harold J. Reitsema and colleagues at the University of Arizona made use of a "lucky" coinciding big area of this star that Neptune in its slow motion around the solar system, was going to pass across our line of sight to a particularly bright star. Stars are so far away that they appear pointlike as they appear, possibly as a bright ring of light behind the ring of Neptune it would briefly disappear. In fact it would disappear twice, as the straight path behind the circular ring would cross the ring twice.

The BBC would lose £170m a year in revenue if pensioners were given free television licences, Mr Alan Hart, controller BBC 1, told pensioners' representatives yesterday.

In the event, the star did disappear but only once.

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supplementary rates, they would summon and prosecute any ratepayers wilfully refusing to pay their general rates. The London Transport Executive, whose chairman Sir Peter Mather is sitting on the court for lacking authority to make a rate, said it was studying the decision. Sir Peter is abroad on business.

At County Hall, the GLC lawyers are pushing over various aspects of the Appeal Court ruling. Lord Denning made specific references to the 6.19p precept—levied to pay for London Transport—an extract from some of his earlier decisions was to quash the precept. Yet only 3.6p of this was meant to subsidize London Transport's other major bus and tube fares.

## Bar entry to be cut

**By Our Legal Correspondent**

Greater Manchester farmers have also been frozen by the Labour controlling group, but there has been no supplementary rate precept.

Some ratepayers in London might find Tuesday's Court of Appeal decision an excuse to pay no further rate at all this year; London borough treasurers said yesterday as they counted the cost of the ruling.

Hovey Mr Terence Clowry, treasurer of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, spoke for his fellow officials in promising that while councillors would make no effort to collect

## P & O face lightning strikes over Ulster ferries

## By Our Health Services

# PAY REVIEW

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Nurses began a campaign yesterday to gain recognition by the Government that they must be treated as a special case in the next pay round.

The Royal College of Nursing, the biggest nursing union, is to hold a regional campaign over the next two months to press MFs to make up their case.

It is going to demand not just a pay rise in line with inflation but also a 10 per cent instead of the Government's 4 per cent limit, but a review at the way nurses' pay is determined.

Nurses are raising more action than any other industrial section because of their bitterness, Mr Anthony - Nicholson, deputy director of the college's labour relations department, said.

The college produced figures to show that a first-year police constable earned £20 a week more than a staff nurse with three years' training, £108 a week compared with £100 a week.

From John Wi

**By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent**

"inferior" claim to life is utterly repugnant to Judaism. Jews were particularly sensitive to any such discrimination. Having witnessed the horror of the Nazis, they were loath to become members because they were deemed inferior, he said.

"But the principle is universal, an imperative especially urgent at this time when human life is being cheapened through the rampant rise of abortion on demand. At this level and the widespread advocacy to legalize snuffing out the lives, or potential lives, of the unborn, we are all too undesirable by eugenicists and indiscriminate abortions on demand."

"The absolute and infinite value of a human being's life is intrinsic and quite independent of that person's quality of life, but even if that were

**By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent**

A moving document of royal maternity was sold at Sotheby's yesterday. It was a character sketch of her son the Dauphin written by Marie Antoinette for the new governor of Savoy after the fall of the Bastille.

It sold for £10,780 (estimate £8,000 to £10,000) to an unnamed private collector. The Dauphin died in 1793, six years after his mother was guillotined, when he was four.

The six-page memorandum was sent for sale by an English noble family and was bought by a foreigner. It will require an expert hand to decipher.

The trail of autograph manuscripts and letters ran much in line with expectations. (9 per cent unsold.) The autograph manuscript of Offenbach's opera "The Barber of Seville" was sold for £12,630.

A collection of Mussolini's speeches, drafted in his own hand, together with drafts of

the commission of the Fascist Council, made £9,020 (estimate £8,000 to £10,000).

Sotheby's sale of modern British paintings, drawings and sculpture set some new records with a painting of a shepherd with a dog, which averaged 150 per cent over the estimate (19 per cent unsold). A pastel view of the "Fish Market, San Bartolome" of 1878-80, by James Abbott McNeill "Whistler," brought £12,000 (estimate £8,000 to £10,000), an auction record for the artist.

From more moderate times, the £6,160 (estimate £2,000 to £3,000) paid by Masterpiece Studio for Ivon Hitchens' "Dark Landscape", of 1944, was previous auction prices for this artist.

Recent sales were in difficulties. Christie's two-day auction of Chinese and Japanese art in New York was 42 per cent unsold.

# MEN OF THE YEAR HONoured

A lifeboat coxswain, an RASC rescue helicopter pilot, a policeman crippled in the course of duty, a champion sprinter at the top snooker players were among the 1000 Christmas canteen the annual Men of the Year organized by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation last Tuesday.

Another man honoured was the hero of the Lizard Embassy siege, Police Constable Trevor Lock, met his fellow hostages at Sir Sim Harris and Christopher Cramer, the BBC television newsmen.

Another policeman who was honoured for his association with the Colchester Philip did was permanently paralysed when shot when chasing men who had raided an office in Hayes west London.

Police Constable Barry, lifeboat coxswain at Sheerness, Kent was another guest. He regained three men in a force nine gale.

Allan Wells, the sprinter and Steve Davis, the snooker player were also honoured, together with the famous cricketer Ian Botham, the footballer Bobby Laker, who captained a Seaking helicopter which saved 22 people from a blazing ship.

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HAPPY END  
AT TV  
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## Reith lecturer questions existence of arms race

By Kenneth Goding and Henry Stanhope

The existence of an East-West arms race was questioned in the first of this year's BBC Reith lectures last night.

Professor Laurence Martin, Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University, said on Radio 4 that the proportion of the United States gross national product spent on defence fell from 9.1 per cent in 1960, before the Vietnam war, to 5.2 per cent in 1979.

The military share of the federal budget was more than halved during the same period from 49 to 23 per cent. President Reagan's new arms programme would raise it by only 1 per cent next year, Professor Martin said.

Money spent on strategic arms during the 1970s was only two-thirds of the sum spent in the 1960s, which had been only two-thirds that in the previous decade.

In Britain, although defence spending had risen in real terms by between 5 and 10 per cent since 1973, it had fallen as a proportion of GNP from more than 8 to about 5 per cent in the past 20 years, or so.

The analysis of arms control by Professor Martin is certain to set light again to the controversy over broadcasting and defence arguments.

Professor Martin takes issue with the unilateral nuclear disarmament, one of which, Professor E. P. Thompson, the historian, was earlier this year vetoed by Sir Ian Trethowan, Director General of the BBC, as the choice for the Dimbleby Lecture on television.

That decision was in contrast to the delivery by Dr Nicholas Humphrey, another unilateralist, of the Bronowski memorial lecture.

Professor Martin acknowledged that Russia's defence spending seemed to have risen by more than 4 per cent a year in the last decade. But even that was much less than it could have managed. According to a recent estimate, the Soviet Union could have increased its military budget by an annual 7 per cent without going as far as to mobilize for war.

He asserted that any particular level of defence expenditure is appropriate. I am merely suggesting that the numbers I have been quoting are scarcely what the metaphor of an accelerating, heading race would suggest," he said.

Professor Martin argued that the effects of the European nuclear disarmament movement discriminated against the West, partly because it was less able to influence opinion in the Soviet Union, but also because Communists saw détente as a better opportunity to pursue conflict with the non-Communist world.

Professor Martin said he believed the West's constant aim should be to find ways of preserving its interests without provoking others.

Thus, I believe that arms control should be both more and less than some uncritical exponents suggest; more, because it can never be a substitute for defence," he said.

Far too many people who had an urgent need to regard the dangers of armed force and unbridled military



Now a truly common entrance

Fiona Finch, aged 13 (foreground above), helped to make history this week when she sat her common entrance examination at Sherborne Preparatory School, Dorset, for it was the first time that girls took the same papers as boys on the main subjects of English, mathematics, French and science. Yesterday was the final day of the obligatory papers for the 1400 autumn candidates. Today they will be sitting optional papers, and they should

know within a few weeks whether they have secured places in public schools. The 13-plus examination papers were based on a joint syllabus devised and agreed by the boys' common entrance committee and the girls' board. The joint examination is the culmination of five years' work. In a complete year nearly 14,000 pupils, 10,000 boys and 4,000 girls, sit the common entrance examination, which was first set in 1904.

## Students in teaching courses to be cut

By Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent

The University Grants Committee (UGC) has decided that the numbers of students taking postgraduate certificates in education (PGCE) courses, other than those in shortage subjects, should be cut by nearly a third in all universities.

The reduction will be equal in all institutions, regardless of differing provisions.

Letter have been sent to the 31 universities which have departments of education informing them of their new intake targets for PGCE courses next autumn. They are asked to protect student numbers in the subjects in which there is still a shortage of specialist teachers: mathematics, physics, chemistry, Welsh, and craft, design and technology.

The size of the cuts appears to differ between universities, but that is only a reflection of the varying proportion of students on the so-called shortage subject courses; 1979-80 has been taken as the base year.

If that is taken out of the equation, the reduction in all other courses will be seen to be about 30 per cent in each university.

That is the size of cut that the UGC found was necessary to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in the intake into PGCE courses next year, which the Government announced earlier this month. The committee decided against making cuts on a selective basis between institutions.

The UGC makes no mention in its letter of target figures for the intake into Bachelor of Education (BED) courses. However, the Government has said that it "does not think it would be right" for institutions to recruit more students in 1982 than in 1980 or 1981; the intake in those last two years was respectively about 40 and 30 per cent lower than planned.

## Cuts will delay medical research

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

Important medical research will be delayed because of government cuts in university funds, Dr John Gowans, secretary of the Medical Research Council, said yesterday. He described the economies as "savage" and as "striking at the foundations on which medical research is built."

Introducing the annual report accounting for £93m spent last year by the council on research in universities, hospitals and in its own laboratories, Dr Gowans outlined special measures to help research groups over short-term difficulties of one or two years. But that action, he said, would mean deferring other projects.

The council was sending a letter to universities with ideas for safeguarding the best medical research teams. Nevertheless, by the end of last year the council could not fund all the applications that merited support.

He expressed anxiety that the cuts would damage irreparably the dual support system by which funds come from the research councils and the University Grants Committee (UGC), which has cuts grants over the next four years to universities. Part of that money was earmarked for the most fundamental phase of research, Dr Gowans said. It paid for that period of freedom when ideas were developing from speculation.

"We depend on that initial freedom as a stable base on which we build."

But the UGC has said medical research will not be further protected. The research council, therefore, expects to be mounting rescue operations to save some of the top research groups. In the case of particularly gifted workers, a 10-year bridging grant could be considered to ensure that outstanding individuals are not lost to medical research.

## Minister attacked over refusal to aid BR

By Nicholas Timmins

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, was accused yesterday of condemning London rail commuters to conditions "unacceptable in the transport of cattle".

Mr Russell Tuck, assistant general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, made the criticism after Mr Howell had told British Rail that it cannot expect more taxpayers' money to help it to solve its difficulties.

British Rail said that Mr Howell's statement offers us no solution. It offers no guidance as to where we can go, and no hope for any improvement in services in London and the South-east. We cannot keep up re-evaluating equipment as fast as we need to, so the overall trend must be downward."

Mr Howell was responding to British Rail's document issued in March on policy options: for the commuter services.

He said: "I am aware of the widespread discontent of commuters with the quality of London rail services, but in present circumstances we cannot solve the problems simply by expecting the taxpayer to provide us with more financial support for them."

"If the commuter network were to be provided quickly throughout with brand new trains, this could only be at the expense of the general taxpayer, and I do not believe the right approach is to set modest aims, based on lowering costs and improving

## Work tests boycott threatened

By Pat Healey  
Social Services Correspondent

Government plans to strengthen "work tests" for unemployment benefit are being asked by their employment sections to sanction a boycott of the tests, which are due to begin in 20 unemployment benefit offices in January.

If the national executives of the Society of Civil and Public Servants and the Civil and Public Services Association agree, members would be instructed to boycott the new tests, and could then face suspension.

The employment sections have agreed jointly to consult their members in the 20 offices affected and to explain their opposition.

The tests are to be introduced as an experiment after a study supervised by Sir Derek Rayner, the Prime Minister's adviser on efficiency, suggested that money could be saved by ending compulsory registration as unemployed as a condition for receiving benefit.

The unions fear that voluntary registration, expected to start next October, would lead to the closure of jobs, where registration now takes place. That would mean fewer Civil Servants and a poorer service to the long-term unemployed.

The tests add one question to the form that applicants for unemployment benefit are asked to complete. It asks if claimants would accept a job "like your usual one or like your last one", and explains that that means, with similar pay, hours and conditions.

Most people answering "yes" will have their claim dealt with as normal, but those who have been out of work for six months or who answer "yes" and those who say "no" are to be asked to complete a second form.

That asks questions about availability for work, whether the claimant will take full-time work, whether he or she is an immediate mover, and whether the claimant would be willing to move to find work.

The tenor of the new form is being interpreted by the unions as an attempt to press long-term unemployed people and those caring for children, mainly married women and single parents, into accepting jobs they do not want or dropping their claims.

The Department of Employment has told the two unions that the new questions will not be compulsory, given the present state of the law.

## Crash victim acted bizarre imitation of former life

A car crash victim was awarded £190,000 agreed damages in a High Court yesterday for head injuries which reduced his life to what counsel described as a bizarre imitation of what it had once been.

Mr Roger Dearsley, married, with three young children, had looked forward to taking over a new house, probably in Australia, oblivious of the fire which wrecked her Crossroads motel. She missed the blaze and news of it was withheld from her by her daughter Jill in a tearful farewell on board the QE2. Television viewers of Crossroads last night discovered that ATV chose a happy farewell from the series for Meg Mortimer, played by Noelle Gordon. It was one of five possibilities, the rest of which were said.

Despite the sadness of the parting, millions of roadside viewers breathed a sigh of relief when they discovered that Meg Mortimer had not perished.

Mr Justice Forbes, sitting in private on Tuesday, granted an application by Mr Smith for a High Court hearing to consider whether an inquest can be held into the death of someone who died abroad.

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Mr Smith, a former policeman, of Eshott Avenue, Guise-

## Nurse inquest plea victory

From Our Correspondent

The father of Helen Smith, the British nurse who died in Saudi Arabia more than two years ago, has won a High Court judicial review of his plea for an inquest.

Mr Ronald Smith, has fought a long battle to have an inquest in Britain. But the authorities insisted that they had a jurisdiction to hold an inquest into the death of someone who died abroad.

Mr Justice Forbes, sitting in private on Tuesday, granted an application by Mr Smith for a High Court hearing to consider whether an inquest can be held into the death of someone who died abroad.

Mr Smith, a former policeman, of Eshott Avenue, Guise-

## HAPPY END AT TV MOTEL

Meg Mortimer is alive, well and on her way to a new life, probably in Australia, oblivious of the fire which wrecked her Crossroads motel. She missed the blaze and news of it was withheld from her by her daughter Jill in a tearful farewell on board the QE2. Television viewers of Crossroads last night discovered that ATV chose a happy farewell from the series for Meg Mortimer, played by Noelle Gordon. It was one of five possibilities, the rest of which were said.

Despite the sadness of the parting, millions of roadside viewers breathed a sigh of relief when they discovered that Meg Mortimer had not perished.

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I would like the interest to be ☐ added to the account ☐ paid to me half-yearly

FULL NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ TTXS

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SIGNATURE(S) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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## PARLIAMENT November 11 1981

## Howe predicts slower fall in inflation

## COMMONS

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in the Commons he did not believe they would see inflation falling in the next 12 months as fast as it had in the last 12 months. He said the fall in the exchange rate must, for a time, involve some pressure in the opposite direction. But the trend should be considered, remain downwards.

He also stated that for some time to come earnings in real terms were bound to be affected by the adverse effect on consumption because of that had to be set alongside the beneficial effects from the annual overtime and less short time working.

He was speaking in the resumed debate on the Queen's Speech and Opposition spokesman, Mr. Peter Shore, chief of the Labour Party, who declared that the country was living through a tragedy the dimensions and consequences of which they had scarcely begun to grasp.

Mr. Shore was moving an amendment to the motion for a loyal address in reply to the Queen's Speech.

He said the Government had decided to continue its disastrous economic policies which have already resulted in record levels of unemployment and loss of output and that the Queen's Speech does not contain any measures which even begin to deal with the economic problems which now face the country.

He said they were entering a process of complete stagnation in any other industrial country. As well as firms and jobs disappearing, they were witnessing unemployment and machinery being auctioned off to competitors in developed and developing countries. This could only be put right by massive investment.

It was true the base rate had fallen by half a per cent, some large contracts had been won, and industrial output had risen half a per cent in the past month, but that was trivial and no more than crumbs of hope.

If the Prime Minister was ready to talk about some firms who had had successes, what had she to say about the many which had simply ceased to exist?

The gap between pay settlements and the rate of inflation was almost unparalleled. Industrial investment was falling to a level in the public sector. How severe these cuts would be seen when the Cabinet discussions had been completed.

The country was in a downward spiral of decline so deep as to be almost without comparison with a scale that almost defied analogy in recent history. And this was happening at precisely the time when the last flood of North Sea oil was at its receding shores.

The Queen's Speech was a bald unconvincing restatement of the policies of the last two and a half years.

In her speech on November 4, Mrs Thatcher made astonishing assertions that her disastrous

policies would, not in some distant future but in the next 12 months, be transformed into visible success. There was evidence, not of real world changes, but an increasing light from reality, a world of make-believe, into which Mrs Thatcher was increasingly withdrawing.

She genuinely thought that unemployment, inflation, and prices for those already at work. It was here that a new and strong understanding with the trade union movement, together with effective price control, would play a major part.

There were those who dismissed a new understanding as being undesirable or ineffective. But his own confidence rested on the overriding priority to reduce unemployment.

Where that understanding exists (the continued) and where the Labour Party and the trade union movement are properly engaged, we have bonds which, though thin as air, are as strong as hoops of steel. (Conservative)

He had no illusions about the problems which would be the difficulties to Labour nor about the difficulties to the Government, but there was an alternative strategy, Labour's strategy.

It is one (he said) which offers the Government a way out of the economic crisis, the economic proposals in the Queen's Speech offer nothing but decline and despair.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said successive governments of both parties had all fallen victim to the same error.

He said the Government had placed the framework of economic and financial discipline which they had set. This was the main reason, he said, why the past 20 years successive governments had not been able to achieve their economic objectives.

He did not suggest that those whose policies had not prevailed were not entitled to criticise the Government, but they should remember that the market, which they too, had been criticised for its failure to defend the realists and disciplines that they had regarded as essential.

The whole world was experiencing the ravages of persistent, unevenly controlled inflation and economic stagnation while still adjusting to the effects of the major oil shock. It was important to see British problems in the international perspective.

It was essential not to relax efforts to fight inflation, but to sustain those efforts with determination. The Government required that inflation was kept below 3 per cent.

The burden of Government spending, borrowing and taxation was too heavy. The Government must be reluctant to continue further increases in any of them. It was much more than a coincidence that the rate of inflation had declined this country had experienced a national economic crisis.

What we need (he added) to sustain the recovery is a reduction in inflation and wage costs.

Planned investment in the

propagated and had imprisoned those who from the start were only too willing to be imprisoned by this doctrine.

Reflation needed strong supporting policies. There was the possibility that an increase in public spending and economic expansion could find its way into increased savings and investment.

There were those who dismissed a new understanding as being undesirable or ineffective. But his own confidence rested on the overriding priority to reduce unemployment.

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Planned investment in the



Howe: Signs of recovery

nationalized industries this year was 15 per cent higher than a year ago. We are anxious (he went on) to find ways of involving the private sector in the nationalized industries. That could bring the industries, as it should, more under the influence of the market.

One particular proposal we are examining at the moment is for a bond to be issued by British Telecom. The proceeds of the bond would be used to invest in the telecommunications industry.

We have always made it clear that any such proposals must meet two important conditions. There must be an appropriate degree of risk for the Government and the cost to the borrower must not be excessive. Current proposals must be strictly assessed against these standards.

He had been asked when the recovery was to take place and what hope the Government could hold out for the timing of that recovery.

The pace of our recovery (he said) is bound to be affected by the speed with which the other elements of the economic package are put into effect. The pace of the recovery depends to a large extent on their success in bringing down their own inflation rate. The same applies to this country.

"The development most likely to bring recovery here is a further continued reduction of our inflation and cost. This year inflation has been brought down to 11 per cent and unit wage costs were virtually unchanged for the first half of this year. Competitiveness of British industry so far this year has improved by 10 per cent."

The fall in exchange rates and the sharp jump in productivity in the first six months of 1981 had set the scene for a return to profitability which was the essential precondition for investment and jobs. The export volume showed how well British firms had risen to the challenge of recession.

Domestic demand, however, was still weak. The Government was now showing signs of recovery.

What we need (he added) to sustain the recovery is a reduction in inflation and wage costs.

Planned investment in the

he will not, in this Government, make public funds available where commercial prospects are dim. It is in prospect, they were in the case of Talbot.

Mr Fletcher: The Scottish Office and the Department of Industry have been ready to give financial assistance to every viable investment which would create new jobs in any part of Scotland.

Mr Bruce Millan, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, (Glasgow, Scotland, Lab.) said it was unfortunate that the Government had failed to do this after the devastation caused by the company and the Government's decision to close the factory.

In view of the special effort the Government is making to bring the economy back to life, how many jobs have actually been brought there, and how many are in prospect?

Mr Fletcher: Every effort is being made to bring new jobs to Linwood. Mr Millan knows better than most Labour MPs that the firm is not a lost cause. There is a future. Will be sure is that

settlements in the 1980-81 year round was about half that of the previous round. The rate of inflation was about 10 per cent in the second quarter of last year. Increases in productivity and improvements in work practices have helped to reduce inflation.

The pressure on profit margins was easing and industrial stoppages were probably at their lowest. It had fallen to seven per cent, Lady Bick, for the Opposition, said unemployment was now nudging three million and many economists would argue it was over that. The rise in youth unemployment to a level where half of school leavers were condemned to the dole queue was a scandal for which there was no excuse.

Instead of what Lady Bick had said, industry had suffered more than ever during the depression of the 1930s. Output had fallen by one sixth. Investment was falling steadily, major companies were closing plant, workshops and liquidating a record level.

It is against all common sense (he said) to believe a policy which repeatedly closes factories and so diminishes production should enable us to become richer. The standard of living, being cut by increases in taxation, reductions in social security benefits and cuts in real wages forced on workers by redundancy threats. Public services were under increasing severe strain.

In short (he said) the Government's economic record since the election has been one of unparalleled failure. It is no longer a party-political matter. This is affecting the whole country. Lord Rochester (L) said the Government should be warned that it would be most imprudent at the moment to mount any general



Shore: Firm bond with unions

He did not seek to diminish the importance of securing the widest possible understanding from the trade union movement about the need for this.

I do not believe (he continued) that we shall see inflation falling in the next 12 months as fast as it has in the last 18 months. The recent fall in the exchange rate must for a time involve some pressure in the opposite direction. But the trend should be considered, remain downwards.

For some time to come earnings in real terms were bound to be affected by the adverse effect on consumption because of that had to be set alongside the beneficial effects from the annual overtime and less short time working.

It was crucial that cost competitiveness and the level of output should improve. That was the recovery could come about. Provided the facts were explained to them fairly and they were not distracted by the Government's less short-term working.

He would like to know from the official Opposition whether they would support any attempt to achieve a responsible trade union leader or a responsible political party to support any idea of industrial action in that way. (Conservative)

Mr Geoffrey Dickens (Huddersfield, West, C) said that local government was not capable of cutting its expenditure. This was because if the sums were wrong, the ratepayer could pay.

The ratepayers were sick and tired of the Government, yet there were people on their own side who were weakening on the issue. He would like to see this health and unjust rate of inflation.

There was laughter from Labour MPs and Mr Dickens, pointing towards the Government, said: "One day I shall be sitting there. One day I will earn the privilege to sit down there and when I do you had better watch your back."

Mr Michael Latham (Melton, C) said he doubted whether the recession was about to end and feared that the Government was in a state of confusion. He said the Government should be more realistic and less dogmatic in its approach.

Mr Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Brixton, North, Lab.) said interest rates should be brought down and the exchange rate should be allowed to fall. He said the Government should be more realistic and less dogmatic in its approach.

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with organised labour on cost containment. This had to be done. If the country was to recover.

In the next stage, general deflation should be allowed to expand to the levels that would bring all resources reasonably soon to the point of production. A moderate tariff should be retained for a time on manufactured imports.

Mr Maurice Macmillan (Farnham, C) said the time had come for the Government to put forward a policy of deflationary, inflationary ideas put forward by the Opposition.

There were considerable risks involved but there were great risks, too, in doing nothing. More public investment was needed, especially for the sort of projects which would bring work and contracts to the private sector.

The Government should use production incentives to help to employ people. It was false economy to buy abroad when it was not necessary.

Mr William Rodgers (Teesside, Stockport, SDP) said Labour policy was irrelevant and inadequate. It was outrageous to speak of nationalization, including re-nationalization, without compensation.

There was no intrinsic virtue in legislation in industrial relations. It was a perception of the behaviour of the trade unions. Mr Alex Kitson seemed to have declared his colours.

He would like to know from the official Opposition whether they would support any attempt to achieve a responsible trade union leader or a responsible political party to support any idea of industrial action in that way. (Conservative)

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that involved a craft industry which would soak up a great deal of unemployment.

Sir David Price (Barneshead, C) said the present level of unemployment was socially and economically unacceptable. A high rate of inflation was the enemy of full employment.

The Government must encourage the wealth creators and wealth creators at all levels. He made no distinction between the public and private sectors, though he distinguished between the wealth producers and consumers. For too long there had been too many on the consuming side and not enough on the production side.

In the modern world Government and industry had to work together as a partnership. The Government should work rapidly towards a general reduction in interest rates. Britain needed more stability in exchange rates.

The continuing increase in public expenditure was a major cause of the general increase in prices must be restrained. There should be a change in the Government's attitude towards the national insurance surcharge.

The Government must continue to encourage public expenditure on education, social welfare and other public services. The Government could not sustain the situation of public expenditure without a change in the way it was financed.

Mr Christopher Patten (Bath, C) said Conservative MPs who had been critical of the Government wanted to find a strategy around which they could unite, one which would be a positive step towards achieving what the Government had elected.

What "One Nation" policies did mean was putting a heavy burden upon the shoulders of the poor and worst off, re-distributing burdens against them rather than re-distributing help towards them.

He hoped ministers would reject any suggestion that supplementary benefits or unemployment benefits should be cut. If they were to attempt to make such cuts they could count not on his support but on his belief in the Tories on the other side of the House.

Mr Edward Leadbitter (Hartlepool, Lab.) said the Government's record was a disaster. There were no people in his area who sat in the dark and who could not put up with their heating because they were scared of debt of increasing amounts.

Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne, C) said it was a pity that the Government was so short of funds in the present state of the national insurance.

He wanted to keep this service going as long as possible. He wanted to keep it as long as possible. He wanted to keep it as long as possible. He wanted to keep it as long as possible.

Mr Patten: I am not sure that a service which is not working is a service which is not working. I am not sure that a service which is not working is a service which is not working.

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## Paisley told to attend on Monday

## SPEAKER

The Speaker made it clear in a statement following an incident yesterday when two Ulster MPs shouted at the Prime Minister from the upper gallery that he wished one of them to be in the House to hear his ruling on Monday on the incident.

The Speaker, Mr George Thomas, said he wished to make a statement on the incident which concerned the conduct of the Rev. James Paisley (North Antrim, Dem U) and Mr Peter Robinson (Belfast, East, Dem U).

Last night (he continued) when I had my attention drawn to the reports in the media of the words that were said, I have been used by both MPs in this House, I have noticed to Mr Paisley that I would wish him to be in his usual place to hear what I have to say.

I understand that Mr Paisley has been in the precincts of the House and, indeed, was here when we began our business yesterday afternoon, but I had a message from him to say that he could not come to the House because he was receiving a deputation. (Cries of "Oh.")

I must say at once that I strongly deplore the conduct of both MPs. I have been asked to order the Chamber in order to avoid the authority of the Chair as well as if they spoke the words that were uttered.

I therefore propose, since it is entirely wrong for any MP to be able to refuse to come to the Chamber to answer as to whether he used completely unparliamentary, abusive and offensive words, that I shall deal with this matter on Monday next as though it was this day, which is plenty of notice for Mr Paisley to come to this House.

If he does not come to this House I shall then act in his absence.

Mr Paisley (North Antrim, Dem U) said he was not in the House to hear the Speaker's ruling. He said he was not in the House to hear the Speaker's ruling. He said he was not in the House to hear the Speaker's ruling.

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## Repayment of grant by car firm

## SCOTLAND

There was no prospect of another car factory at Linwood, Mr Alexander Fletcher, Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, declared at a question period.

Mr Fletcher said the Government was not in a position to repay the grant to the car firm. He said the Government was not in a position to repay the grant to the car firm.

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Mr Fletcher said the Government



## Bill gives more rights to detained mental patients

By Lucy Hodges

The long-awaited Bill reforming the mental health law, published yesterday, gives patients more rights than the Government with the rights it proposes to give to some detained patients but appalled them by leaving powers with the professionals in certain areas.

The Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, which was published with an explanatory White Paper, does away with the paternalism and professional discretion written into the 1959 law and gives patients legal safeguards against wrongful admission and treatment.

It gives patients many more opportunities to apply to a mental health review tribunal for release and introduces automatic tribunal hearings for those whose cases have not been reviewed for three years. Tribunal hearings will increase from 904 last year to about 4,500 a year.

The Bill says that any patient whose detention is renewed by a tribunal will have to be able to benefit from further treatment. Mr Larry Gostin, legal director of MIND, the mental health charity, said that would mean that patients would no longer languish in institutions without any prospect of treatment.

"This takes away the responsibility of psychiatrists to be jailers", he said. "Mental hospitals are there for treatment and not confinement". The Bill proposes a watchdog body, a quango called the Mental Health Act Commission, which will protect the

interests of detained patients, the Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday. The new body would be composed of lawyers, doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers and laymen serving part time.

They will visit each of the 300 local hospitals and mental nursing homes in England and Wales with detained patients once or twice a year. They will make one visit a month to the four special hospitals for mentally abnormal offenders.

In their visits the commission members will make themselves available to detained patients who wish to see them, will ensure that staff are helping patients to understand their legal position and their rights, the White Paper says.

"They will look at patients' records of admission and renewal of detention and at records relating to treatment. They will also ensure that detained patients are satisfied with the care and any complaints they make."

The decision on when treatment can be imposed on patients, the most controversial part of the commission's work, is to be decided by the appointment of psychiatrists for that purpose.

The commission will draw up a code of practice which will advise which treatment should not be given without the patient's consent, but individual cases will be decided by the specially appointed psychiatrists.

The Bill proposes that

treatments which give rise to special concern, such as brain surgery, should be administered only with the patient's consent and the agreement of an independent doctor.

Drugs, electro-convulsive therapy and surgery which is not included in the first category, can be given without the patient's consent if an independent doctor agrees. The Bill then mentions a third category of treatment "including general medical and nursing care", which can be given without the patient's consent.

MIND was scathingly critical of that point. Mr Gostin said that while Government had grasped the nettle of reform on consent to treatment it had rendered it meaningless by leaving exclusive review to the professionals. Doctors should not be the only people to decide such questions.

"I feel quite confident that if this proposal goes through it will become increasingly more amenable to the public will become less and less confident in it as a safeguard", Mr Gostin said.

He was convinced that the only reason the commission had been proposed was to suit the desires of the Royal College of Psychiatrists on consent to treatment.

MIND was also critical of the Government's failure to accommodate the European Court of Human Rights judgment in the Bill. The omission was expected and it is understood that it will be included in the legislation as it goes through Parliament.



Adam and Eve and (right) two seventeenth-century royal gardeners, John Tradescant, father and son, are depicted in a new window at the Tradescant Centre, St Mary-at-Lambeth, London. The church, alongside Lambeth Palace, after being declared redundant by the ecclesiastical authorities was saved from demolition and restored as a museum of gardening history. The window, commissioned by the Glaziers' and Painters' of Glass Company for the Tradescant Trust, was designed and made by Lawrence Lee, ARCA.

## Press ban too wide, judge says

By Frances Gibb

A ban imposed by West Sussex magistrates under the new contempt of Court Act on the reporting of committee proceedings in an alleged gun-running case, was said by a High Court judge yesterday to be too wide.

Justice Forbes said that the magistrates had made the order without considering whether it could be defined more narrowly. His view and that of Mr Justice Gidwell was that although the magistrates had the power to make the order under Section 4 (b) of the Act, they never really applied their minds to the question whether the order they made should be restricted.

The judge was commenting during the second day of a hearing that is the first challenge to the use by courts of powers under the Act. The two judges had heard that the ban, imposed on October 16,

prevented the press from reporting even the names, addresses and charges faced by defendants in the trial.

Mr Desmond Browne, counsel for the West Sussex County Times, which is challenging the ban, said its imposition was an attempt to get round a defendant's right to have reporting restrictions lifted.

That right had been unchallengeable until this year, when the Criminal Justice (Amendment) Act was passed, giving magistrates discretion over the lifting of reporting restrictions if any of the accused objected.

But that Act, brought in after the committee proceedings in the trial of Mr Thorpe, where restrictions were lifted despite objections from some of the accused, had not come into force in time to help the defendants in the Horsham case, Mr

Browne said. They had therefore invoked the newly passed Contempt of Court Act.

It was an abuse of the Act to use it to try to get round the Criminal Justice Act, which gave a defendant the right to lift reporting restrictions, he said.

"It can never have been intended by Parliament to use the Contempt of Court Act, passed on July 27, to remedy a criticism of the 1967 Criminal Justice Act which had already been remedied by Parliament only five days before the passing of the Criminal Justice (Amendment) Act."

The ban is being contested by Mr Ian Farquharson, a journalist with the West Sussex County Times, the National Union of Journalists, backed by the National Council for Civil Liberties, and the newspaper, backed by the Newspaper Society.

## Warning of battle ahead for higher farm prices

By John Young

Agriculture was likely to remain economically weak in Britain and most other EEC countries in 1982-83, Mr David Evans, chief economic and policy adviser to the National Farmers' Union (NFU), said yesterday.

But while there was a strong case for substantially increased price support levels, there would also be strong pressure to hold down price increases so as to contain the cost to the common agricultural policy.

"I cannot see that there will be any change in the strong conviction among certain members of the Council of Ministers that Community expenditure on agriculture must be brought down", he told members of the Farmers' Club in London.

Britain would have to fight with great determination to

avoid arrangements which discriminated against it. "There is a great likelihood that we will be asked to make some revaluation of the green pound. With incomes at such a depressed level this would be totally unacceptable."

The NFU was also particularly concerned about the position in intensive livestock and horticulture, where a combination of unfair aids in other countries, the strength of sterling, and the unevenness of Britain's marketing efforts made it particularly vulnerable.

The Commission's guidelines for the common agricultural policy showed a continuing preoccupation with the belief that the small man must be protected at all costs. That kind of approach was economically wrong.

## Scots get more out of a car

By Peter Waymark

Motoring Correspondent

The cost of motoring is highest in the South-east and lowest in the Midlands but in terms of miles travelled the thriftiest driver is a Scotsman, according to a survey published today in *Drive*, the Automobile Association magazine.

It shows that the cost of running a car in Scotland for the year to the end of last June was 8p a mile, compared with 10.3p in the South-east.

Because Scottish motorists covered a high mileage they got most from such fixed costs as insurance and road tax. Scottish drivers covered 8,822 miles a year, nearly 1,000 more than the national average.

But the Scots' biggest economies were in service and repair bills, which were £40 lower than the average figure. One explanation for this is that Scots have the highest proportion of new cars in Britain.

*Drive* says that the high cost of motoring in the South-east, where the average car cost £895, was a reflection of heavy traffic, shorter journeys and bigger cars.

Midlands drivers paid least in total, £832, but more a mile than Scots because they travelled less. The survey shows that motorists in the North were driving 400 miles a year less than in previous years, probably because of the recession.

Although Scotland has the highest proportion of people in the top AB income bracket, only 30 per cent of Scottish households have more than one car, compared with 43 per cent in the South-east.

## IRAN EMBASSY GROUP FREED

Thirteen Iranians who took part in the occupation of their country's embassy in Kensington, west London, last September, were given conditional charges for two years at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday.

The demonstrators, who were not identified in court for fear of reprisals to their families in Iran, were ordered to pay £130 compensation to the Iranian Government. They all admitted trespassing at the embassy.

The court heard that the demonstrators, who opposed the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini, sprayed slogans on the embassy walls and destroyed documents, causing damage estimated at more than £7,000.

## Nuclear leak blamed on fuel rod error

By Nicholas Timmins

A mistake by staff at the Oldbury nuclear power station, near Bristol, was partly responsible for a radiation leak at the nuclear reprocessing plant at Windscale, Cumbria last month, the Central Electricity Generating Board said yesterday.

The leak led to the plant, now renamed Sellafield, being closed for 24 hours, and contaminated milk on farms nearby.

The board said that nuclear fuel rods which had just been removed from the reactor were wrongly sent to Windscale. They should have been stored for at least 90 days before dispatch, to allow short-lived radioactivity to die away.

As a result, the fuel was more radioactive than it should have been when it was reprocessed, resulting in the release of more than seven curies of radioactive iodine.

British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, which runs the Sellafield plant, yesterday refused to say whether it normally checks fuel to make sure it is not too radioactive for treatment before putting it into the reprocessing line.

"That is not something that

at this stage we want to talk about and we have reported on the incident to the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate", a spokesman said.

The generating board said the error occurred because newly discharged fuel was stored in a skip in a cooling pond alongside the area where fuel ready for reprocessing has its outer skin stripped off before dispatch to British Nuclear Fuels. Seven newly discharged fuel elements were taken in error from the wrong skip and mixed with a consignment of 200 fuel rods that were ready for dispatch.

Six of those fuel rods went into the reprocessing line at Sellafield on October 4, 27 days after they had come out of the reactor, resulting in the release of radioactivity.

Steps have now been taken to segregate the newly discharged fuel more clearly from that being stripped ready for dispatch. The board said, to ensure that the error was not repeated. The incident has also been drawn to the attention of other nuclear power station managers, although there was no evidence that other stations had made similar mistakes.

## Many in hostels still at risk despite fire rules

By A Staff Reporter

A new obligation on local authorities to enforce fire regulations in hostels for the homeless was welcomed yesterday by a long overdue campaign for Single Homeless People, even though it will cover only about a quarter of hostel places.

The measure, which came into force on December 3, follows at least 35 deaths in hostel fires in the past four years, including the 10 women victims of a fire in a hostel in Kilburn, London, last year.

The order, however, affects only the largest hostels, those with three or more stories with a floor area of more than 500 square metres. According to Char, only 17 of the 35 who died were in hostels of a size to be covered by the new order.

The rest, including those who died at Kilburn in the worst hostel fire in recent years, were in hostels where local authorities will still not have an obligation to enforce fire precautions.

"Although the measure is welcome," Mr Beacock said, "it will still be discretionary for local authorities to enforce fire precautions in the smaller hostels. Given the economic climate, many local authorities are not going to use their discretionary powers to search out the smaller hostels and provide the funds to enforce fire regulations. Many people will still be at risk."

Where a local authority requires fire precautions to be installed, a mandatory grant of three-quarters of the cost, up to £6,750, is available. The local authority also has discretion to provide the full cost.

Where a hostel applies voluntarily for the grant, however, the local authority need provide only up to three-quarters of the cost. Many hostels cannot afford to meet the rest of the bill, and so do not apply.

The order enforcing the new obligations is to be laid before Parliament today.

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## IN BRIEF

### Elephant to work on Welsh farm

A two-year-old elephant was flown from Sri Lanka to Heathrow airport, London, yesterday on its way to a new life on a Welsh farm run by a religious group called the Community of the Many Names of God.

Vallu Uma, or Earth Mother in Hindu, which was a gift from the Sri Lanka Government, is four feet tall. It is planned that the elephant, which will be used in religious parades, will eventually earn keep by doing jobs on the 100-acre farm near Llanpump-saint, north of Carmarthen.

### Accidental new apple

Mr John Clarke, a retired lecturer, aged 82, of Dofforggan, Kerry, Powys, believes that a tree grown from a seed in an apple core thrown by chance into his garden 15 years ago, may produce a new variety of eating apples. The Royal Horticultural Society has asked him to submit nine of the fruit to a tasting panel in London.

### Fan is fined £750

Peter Haigh, aged 22, of Attenborough Close, Newtown, Birmingham, was fined £750 at Birmingham yesterday for assaulting a woman police superintendent at a match between Aston Villa and Leicester last season. The officer had her nose broken when she was hit by a milk bottle.

### Weaver's bequest

Miss Gladys Dickinson, and Miss Nora Addinall, who worked together for more than 40 years running the Quanton Weaver, at Plainsfield, near Taunton, have bequeathed £5,000 to Somerset Education Authority for the use of the building of spinning, weaving and natural dyes.

### Man dead in cell

Malcolm James Edye, aged 33, who was on remand in Winchester prison accused of murdering a security guard near Plymouth on September 9 and was due to appear before Winchester magistrates today, was found hanged in a cell yesterday.

### Cockerel fine

Mrs Dora Griffiths, aged 57, of Mochdre, Colwyn Bay, was fined £5 at Colwyn Bay yesterday for keeping a noisy cockerel in her back garden. The prosecution was brought by Colwyn Borough Council. Mrs Griffiths, who also keeps a hen, a wounded seagull and a mongrel dog, denied that the cockerel was noisy.

### Burning his books

A Manchester man of 84 today won £104,000 on the pools a day after accidentally burning his pension and rent book, which he had put in the oven for safekeeping and forgot to take out when he cooked a meal.

### Group win £877,256

A group of customers at the Tiger Inn, at Haxby, near York, yesterday received a cheque for a £877,256 pools win, said to be the second largest ever.

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DATE	DESCRIPTION	CASH	CHEQUE	RECEIPTS	WITHDRAWALS	BALANCE
01/11/81	OPENING BALANCE					1001.50
02/11/81	CASH	50.00				1051.50
03/11/81	CASH	10.75				1062.25
04/11/81	CASH	25.00				1087.25
05/11/81	CASH	110.00				1197.25
06/11/81	CASH	50.00				1247.25
07/11/81	CASH	110.00				1357.25
08/11/81	CASH	30.00				1387.25
09/11/81	CASH	15.00				1402.25
10/11/81	CASH	30.00				1432.25
11/11/81	CASH	15.00				1447.25
12/11/81	CASH	30.00				1477.25
13/11/81	CASH	15.00				1492.25
14/11/81	CASH	30.00				1522.25
15/11/81	CASH	15.00				1537.25
16/11/81	CASH	30.00				1567.25
17/11/81	CASH	15.00				1582.25
18/11/81	CASH	30.00				1612.25
19/11/81	CASH	15.00				1627.25
20/11/81	CASH	30.00				1657.25
21/11/81	CASH	15.00				1672.25
22/11/81	CASH	30.00				1702.25
23/11/81	CASH	15.00				1717.25
24/11/81	CASH	30.00				1747.25
25/11/81	CASH	15.00				1762.25
26/11/81	CASH	30.00				1792.25
27/11/81	CASH	15.00				1807.25
28/11/81	CASH	30.00				1837.25
29/11/81	CASH	15.00				1852.25
30/11/81	CASH	30.00				1882.25
01/12/81	CASH	15.00				1897.25
02/12/81	CASH	30.00				1927.25
03/12/81	CASH	15.00				1942.25
04/12/81	CASH	30.00				1972.25
05/12/81	CASH	15.00				1987.25
06/12/81	CASH	30.00				2017.25
07/12/81	CASH	15.00				2032.25
08/12/81	CASH	30.00				2062.25
09/12/81	CASH	15.00				2077.25
10/12/81	CASH	30.00				2107.25
11/12/81	CASH	15.00				2122.25
12/12/81	CASH	30.00				2152.25
13/12/81	CASH	15.00				2167.25
14/12/81	CASH	30.00				2197.25
15/12/81	CASH	15.00				2212.25
16/12/81	CASH	30.00				2242.25
17/12/81	CASH	15.00				2257.25
18/12/81	CASH	30.00				2287.25
19/12/81	CASH	15.00				2302.25
20/12/81	CASH	30.00				2332.25
21/12/81	CASH	15.00				2347.25
22/12/81	CASH	30.00				2377.25
23/12/81	CASH	15.00				2392.25
24/12/81	CASH	30.00				2422.25
25/12/81	CASH	15.00				2437.25
26/12/81	CASH	30.00				2467.25
27/12/81	CASH	15.00				2482.25
28/12/81	CASH	30.00				2512.25
29/12/81	CASH	15.00				2527.25
30/12/81	CASH	30.00				2557.25
01/01/82	CASH	15.00				2572.25

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## Delay no ground for striking out probate action

that of Lord Diplock at p 316. The court gave assistance as to the discretion which should be exercised, but his Lordship could not derive such assistance from the facts of cases in considering whether the relevant power existed in 1912.

The authority most nearly in point was *In re Coghlin*, dec'd (1948) 2 All ER 68 where the Court of Appeal allowed an appeal from a decision of the Probate Court, Wilmer disclaiming as frivolous and vexatious a very stale claim to revoke letters of administration granted to the deceased's widow. It was held that the existence of which claim had been known since 1912.

It appeared, however, that for the purposes of the appeal the court was not concerned to determine the date as such was a bar to the claim in the Probate Court, even though it might amount to such a bar in the High Court. The court may vary proceedings in and follow and recover the property. The decision thereby constituted a final determination of the claim in the present case. Certain observations in that case as to the effect of laches appeared to be oblique:

"The claimant, 'John' *Wain* v *Murray* (1825) 3 Ad 245) and *Murray* v *Turner* (1844) 3 Currie 802. His Lordship observed that the evidence was insufficient to support the view that the court would never strike out an action of that nature on the mere ground of laches. The court was satisfied that the claim was otherwise frivolous vexatious and

necessary finally to decide the point after his Lordship had heard the evidence. It was not to be exercised in the present case.

It could not fairly be said that the plaintiff's delay in bringing proceedings was intentional, and that, on January 19, 1930, after the plaintiff's complaint had been made, the defendant would have been criminally liable. There was no evidence that the delay gave rise to any substantial risk that a fair trial would not be possible. The defendant's conduct was prejudicial had been caused to Dixon or the endorser.

Mr Summicks submitted that the defendant had been negligent in having been gravely ill at the time the codicil was executed, he previously instructed solicitors to prepare a will, and that it sufficed to show knowledge and approval on his part of the contents.

The authorities seemed to suggest that the deceased might in a state approaching insanity, and might not remember the contents of the will, but that, at the moment of execution, he was sufficient provided that it is shown that he was capable of understanding and giving instructions, and that he did so, and which he had given instructions.

His Lordship thought it was able that the facts alleged proved, would excite the suspicion of the jury, and that the evidence of the transaction did not suffice to support a plea of undue influence, unless Mr. Dixon's conduct was such as to raise such suspicions.

There was at least sufficient

men to cause the court to *discontinue* the proceedings out of jurisdiction, which should only be exercised in a clear case. All the allegations of fact as to how the goods came to be prepared and executed, would have to be investigated.

In the final reply, despite it Samwell's persuasive arguments on Mr Dixon's behalf, he failed to convince the court that the goods would be struck out of either the two grounds.

Solicitors: Waterhouse & Co. 15, Cannon Street, London, E.C. 4; Messrs. G. H. & Co., 10, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C. 2; Messrs. J. P. & Co., 10, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C. 2; Messrs. J. P. & Co., 10, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C. 2.

# venting crime struction

in the execution of his duty within that duty is to keep observation with a view to detecting and obtaining evidence if that future offence is committed.

[illegible]



Peace in the Middle East: Begin digs in to fight the Saudi proposals

# West Bank gets plenty of stick but little carrot

From Christopher Walker, Bethlehem, Nov 11

The full effect of the tough new "carrot and stick" policy being pursued by the Israeli security forces was being felt in many parts of the occupied West Bank today as Israeli and Egyptian ministers met in Cairo in a fresh attempt to bridge differences over Palestinian autonomy.

[Egyptian negotiators in the Palestinian autonomy talks called on Israel to change its policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Disagreement prevailed at the meeting although both sides said the talks were helpful. — Reuters.]

The new policy was outlined earlier this week by its chief architect, Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister and former general. The idea was to improve the quality of life for the peaceful population while cracking down much harder against West Bankers who supported the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

This has led over the past week to the arrest of the leaders of unions representing lawyers, doctors and engineers' unions in the West Bank; the imposition of curfews on two towns; the indefinite closure of the largest Arab university and the threatened closure of the second largest; the arrest of the editor of one Arabic newspaper; and the temporary closure of another.

Shopkeepers were prevented from closing their stores here this morning as a protest against the new Israeli policy of dividing the military and civilian administration in the West Bank. Two who refused to open had their shops, complete with stocks, welded shut for a 30-day punishment by troops using oxyacetylene.

## Campus declared closed area

The 15,000 Palestinian residents of the hillside town of Beit Sahur, less than two miles away, are living under a strict military curfew imposed at midnight after Palestinian youths threw a Molotov cocktail at an Israeli military vehicle. Local Arabs claimed the weapon had been crudely made out of paint thinner and failed to explode. Another curfew was imposed in the town of Kalkila after a similar fire bomb attack.

Israeli troops with a spiked road block were this morning guarding the main entrance to Bethlehem's Vatican-financed university, the second largest in

the West Bank, which has been the scene of frequent nationalist demonstrations since November 1, when Professor Menachem Begin, the West Bank civilian governor, took office.

I was refused entry, along with a United States correspondent, by an Israeli soldier who told us that the campus had been declared a closed area. It later emerged that three leading university administrators had earlier been summoned to the military government headquarters and warned that the campus would be shut in the next few days if demonstrations did not cease.

All schools in Bethlehem were closed and all telephone contact with nearby Beit Sahur prevented. At the sprawling Deheisha, on the outskirts of Bethlehem, troops clashed with stone-throwing crowds after piles of tyres had been burnt and illegal Palestinian flags unfurled.

## Sharon's promises 'not kept'

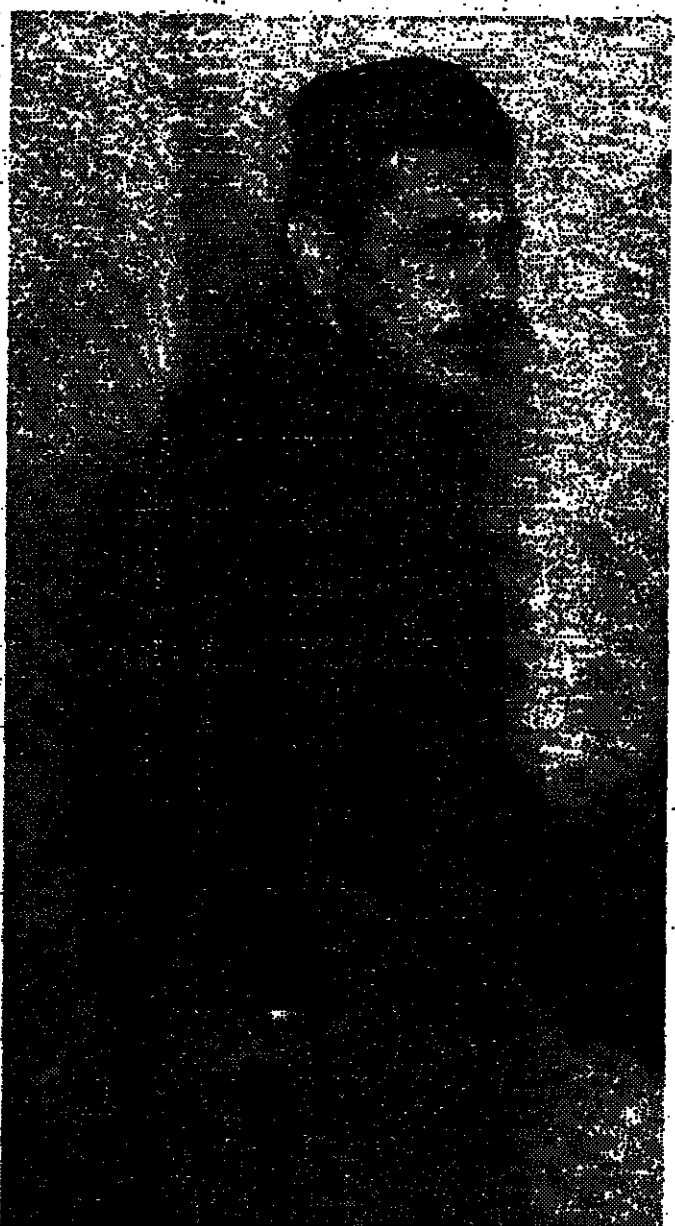
Mr Elias Freij, the elected mayor of Bethlehem, in an interview with *The Times*, accused Mr Sharon of going back on pledges which he made in a meeting soon after taking up his portfolio.

"Amongst other things, he pledged that the Israelis would abandon collective punishments," the mayor said. "He also said that troops would be stepped going on to university campuses, but that is exactly what is happening."

Mr Freij, a Christian Arab, is generally regarded as one of the more moderate West Bank leaders and it had even been hoped by some officials that he might be one of those prepared to support the new civilian administration. He claimed today that the new policy had only worsened the atmosphere.

Elsewhere, Arab shopkeepers in East Jerusalem were ordered to end a 48-hour commercial strike which had turned the former Arab capital into a ghost town. Last night the commander of Israel's central command signed orders empowering his troops forcibly to open any Palestinian shops which remained closed.

In Ramallah, the scene of many recent disturbances, Israeli troops carrying riot sticks and automatic rifles toured the streets.



Terrorist ringleader: Adrian Jaber, aged 33, entering the court, where he was convicted, with three others, of the Hebron killing. Israeli authorities say he trained in the Soviet Union.

## Death call at trial

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Nov 11

Israeli settlers demanding the death penalty disrupted a military court today in Nablus, on the West Bank, when an Army prosecutor recommended life imprisonment for four Arabs convicted of a terrorist killing. They killed six Israelis walking home from religious services in Hebron on May 2, last year.

If the death sentences were passed it would make the killers the first Arab terrorists to be executed by Israel. Some of the protesters were ejected from the court. The convicted men will be sentenced on Tuesday.

Israel abolished the death penalty except for treason and Nazi war crimes, but the Arabs were tried under British regulations, which were incorporated into Israeli law and Jordanian law, which is still in force in the occupied West Bank.

The Government's policy has been never to ask military courts to impose death penalties, but the Cabinet, after the Hebron murders, announced a change of policy to permit prosecutors to ask for death in particularly brutal cases.

Residents of Kiryat Arba, a suburb of Hebron, who filled the courtroom, leapt up and shouted when Captain Haim Greenwald, the prosecutor, asked for life sentences. Rabbi Moshe Levinger, the settlers' spiritual leader, and others, were ejected.

# Israeli MPs visit US to save Camp David

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 11

Six members of the Israeli Knesset arrived in Washington today on a visit to try to ensure that the United States remains committed to the Camp David accords as the only way of achieving a settlement in the Middle East and stops its flirtation with the rival Saudi Arabian peace plan.

The Israeli eight-point formula implies recognition of Israel by confirming the right of all countries in the region to live in peace. It does not mention Israel by name. It also calls for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital and proposes the removal of Israeli settlements from the occupied Arab lands. Palestinians, it says, should be allowed to return to their former homes and be paid compensation if they choose not to.

The group is led by Mr Moshe Arens, the chairman of the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee and a prominent hawk. He is tipped as the next ambassador to the United States when Mr Ephraim Eylon returns to Israel at the end of the year.

The group is equally divided between the ruling Likud Party and the opposition Labour Party. They will see Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and other senior members of the Administration as well as leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties and the press.

The decision to send the delegation was announced by Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, 10 days ago after he had expressed concern over the interest which the Reagan Administration appeared to be showing in aspects of the Saudi eight-point peace plan. Mr Begin said the Saudi plan was a recipe for Israel's liquidation.

The visit coincides with a continuation of the talks between the Administration and diplomats from Britain, France, the Netherlands and Italy over European participation in the Sinai peacekeeping force.

The Europeans have indicated their wish to take part in the force when it is deployed next April but they want to avoid an open commitment to the Camp David accords which are rejected by all Arab states except Egypt. The Europeans want to pursue their own peace initiative which was launched last year in Venice, and which would involve the eventual inclusion of the Palestinians in the peace process.

The United States and the four European governments are trying to find a formula which would permit their participation without jeopardizing the European initiative. A formal announcement of European participation has been delayed several times because of the difficulty in finding a formula acceptable to the Americans, the Israelis and the Arabs.

# Tass attacks Reagan 'nuclear blackmail'

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Nov 11

The Russians today called President Reagan's concept of a limited nuclear war dangerous and absurd, and said it reflected Washington's desire to use nuclear blackmail to achieve its foreign policy aims. In a rejoinder to President Reagan's press conference yesterday, Tass repeated President Brezhnev's recent assertion that nuclear war could not be limited. If it broke out in Europe or elsewhere it would inevitably assume a worldwide character.

The agency said the American concept of a limited war stemmed from the "absurd assumption" that in the event of a nuclear war the United States would use nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union would follow nuclear war scenarios worked out in Washington.

Those who possibly hope to set aside the nuclear powder keg while themselves sitting snugly aside, should not entertain any such illusions.

The agency said the Soviet and American positions were "diametrically opposite". The Soviet Union believed that any crossing of the nuclear threshold, be it a warning explosion or the use of minor nuclear weapons, was extremely dangerous.

The Russians today dismissed American accusations that Soviet chemical agents have been used in South-East Asia and Afghanistan as "persistent, systematic nonsense", and accused the Reagan Administration of paranoia.

It described the hearings in the Senate foreign relations committee as a "low-standard, slanderous undertaking".

# Warning shot is still Nato option

By David Cross

Although there is still some confusion over whether or not Nato would fire a nuclear "warning shot" to try to prevent the Soviet Union from advancing West Europe, Western military experts have no reason to doubt it remains a possibility.

No less an authority than Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, told reporters in Washington yesterday that the firing of a nuclear warning shot was a "Nato option plan".

Part of the confusion, according to defence experts, is the use of terminology like "plan", "strategy" or "concept". As Lord Carver, a former chief of the defence staff puts it: "The only people who have specific nuclear contingency plans with selected targets are the countries which own nuclear weapons like the United States and Britain."

Nato has "concerns" about how the allies generally would fight a land and air war in Europe under different circumstances. Lord Carver confirms that the idea of a demonstrative on-off shot has been going the rounds in the alliance since the early 1960s. He personally believes the notion absurd because there would be no guarantee of an equally gentlemanly reaction from the Soviet Union. It could unleash a massive counter-strike and leave everyone, including the enemy, in a worse position than if it had not been fired in the first place, he says.

Many American defence experts are not keen on the idea either. Mr Herbert Scoville, who served in senior defence and intelligence positions during four administrations, has told reporters he believes a warning shot would lead to an all-out nuclear war.

# West urged to reciprocate Soviet curbs on foreigners

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, Nov 11

The United States has asked Western governments to tighten regulations which restrict the movement of Soviet diplomats, journalists and businessmen in their countries.

The request has been made on the basis of the American policy of "restraint and reciprocity" in its dealings with the Soviet Union. The Administration is underlining the need to reciprocate the tough curbs placed on all foreigners, living and working in the Soviet Union. Most western countries place some restrictions on the freedom of movement of Soviet citizens, but these are often

not fully enforced. Emphasising the need for reciprocity, Washington wants its European allies to be as rigorous in restricting the movement of Russians as they are in preventing foreigners from travelling outside Moscow and other main cities without prior approval.

Britain is strict in the way it controls the movement of Soviet officials, but other countries are more lenient, notably the Scandinavians. These are the countries which Washington is now trying to encourage to be more rigorous in enforcing their own regulations.

# Advertisers of slimming products have to use self control.

Slimming is one of many areas in advertising which is carefully watched. And any advertisement for slimming products must comply with the rules on the right.

They are just some of the rules affecting slimming advertising and they appear in a book called the British Code of Advertising Practice. In it are many rules, not just affecting slimming.

They govern all advertisements which appear in the press, in direct mail, in print, on posters and cinema commercials.

The Code is used by the Advertising Standards Authority whose job it is to protect the public from unacceptable advertising.

It was set up and is financed by the advertising industry although it works entirely independently of it.

Amongst other things, the ASA responds to consumers' complaints and this briefly is the way the system works. Members of the public can write to us to complain about any advertisement they find unacceptable. If, after investigation,

Appendix C Advertising for 'Slimming'	
Weight loss	2.1 The only way for a person to lose weight, other than temporarily, is by burning up the excess fat his body has stored. A diet is the only practicable self-treatment for achieving a reduction in this excess fat. Diet plans, and aids to dieting of the kinds dealt with herein, are therefore the only products which may be offered in advertisements as capable of effecting any loss in weight. Claims, whether direct or indirect, that weight loss can be achieved by any other means are not acceptable in advertisements addressed to the general public.
	2.2 Temporary weight loss can be achieved by the expulsion of water from the body. This may not be represented in advertisements as a method of slimming.
	2.3 Overweight in young people is sometimes associated with a defective action of the glands and it is therefore desirable that they should be advised either in the advertisement or on the pack to consult their doctors before embarking upon a slimming diet.
	2.4 Obesity is a condition requiring medical attention and treatment. No claims referring to obesity are admissible in advertisements directed to the general public see Appendix D.
	Diet plans
	2.5.1 Where a diet plan is advertised, the advertiser should be able to substantiate that his suggested diet(s) will provide adequate amounts of proteins, vitamins and minerals, and that the diet is capable of achieving the results claimed for it, when followed by the kind of person for whom it is intended.
	2.5.2 No claim, direct or indirect, should be made in any advertisement for a diet that it contains any ingredient which in itself has the property of hastening the process of weight loss. All foods have some calorie content and in a balanced diet it will be necessary to have foods with higher and lower calorie levels. There is no ground for supposing that any specific foods have particular properties which speed up the metabolic processes which cause excess fat to be 'burnt-up' and weight to be lost.
	2.5.3 Advertisements for 'crash' diets are unacceptable.
	Aids to dieting general
	2.6.1 Diet aids, such as foods, food substitutes, or appetite depressants, may not be advertised except in terms which make clear that they can only be effective when taken in conjunction with or as part of a calorie-controlled diet. Due prominence should be given therefore in all advertisements to the part played by the diet.
	2.6.2 The Labelling of Food Regulations 1970 require that, where a claim is made in an advertisement or on a label that any food is an aid to slimming, it must be substantiated, and a statement must be included that the food cannot aid slimming except as part of a diet in which the total intake of calories is controlled, whether by calorie counting, low carbohydrate/high protein or other means.
	2.6.3 Any diets whether on pack, in advertisements or otherwise provided in conjunction with diet aids, will be required to conform to the aforementioned advice on diet plans, and details of the diets proposed should therefore be enclosed, with appropriate substantiation, when the advertising is being submitted for clearance.
	2.6.4 Advertisements for diet aids should also conform to the advice already given as to the non-acceptability of certain claims for the individual effectiveness of specific foods or other diet ingredients.
	Foods
	2.7.1 Advertisements for foods offered as diet aids should make clear in what way they contribute to the diet, e.g. whether the particular food is lower in calories than its conventional equivalent on a weight for weight basis, or a slice for slice basis.
	2.7.2 Particular care should be taken to ensure that advertisements for meal substitutes do not imply that these products are effective if eaten in addition to normal meals rather than instead of them.
	Appetite depressants
	2.8.1 Advertisements for appetite depressants should make clear how they work and will only be regarded as acceptable when adequate evidence has been provided by advertisers that the product is safe and effective at the level of consumption suggested.
	2.8.2 Claims for the effect of appetite depressants should not be expressed in terms of food equivalent, e.g. equal to two eggs and ham.
	Weight loss products in general
	2.9 No 'weight loss' products should be advertised on the basis of claims such as <i>Eat as much as you like, Eat, eat, eat, Eat and get slim</i> or anything similar tending to remove due emphasis from the primary importance of maintaining a balanced calorie-controlled diet.

we find the advertisement contravenes the Code, we instruct the advertiser to amend or withdraw it.

If you would like to know more about the Code, or about us, or if you have any cause to complain about an advertisement,

wed like to hear from you. If an advertiser breaks one of the rules, we don't let him get off lightly.

**The Advertising Standards Authority.**  
**If an advertisement is wrong,**  
**we're here to put it right.**  
ASA Ltd, Brook House, Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HN.



## South Africans warned of forced sterilization

From Michael Horvitz, Johannesburg, Nov 11

A stir has been caused here by a warning from a senior government official that compulsory sterilization and abortion might become necessary in the future to contain South Africa's population growth, especially among blacks, if family planning measures are not accepted voluntarily.

Failure to set the growth rate down would plunge the country into chaos and misery, Dr J. de Beer, director-general of the Department of Health and Welfare, said in evidence yesterday to the President's Council, an advisory body set up last year by the Government to make proposals on constitutional and other questions.

It had to be realized "that it is not easy to get the birth rate down other than by penalizing people and having sterilization and abortion both on demand and by command, as it already is in some countries", Dr de Beer told the committee.

"This, of course, is not an acceptable population policy for South Africa, but unless all the population groups accept family planning on a voluntary basis, future generations will have to take these other, less pleasant, compulsory measures", he said.

Family planning, he said, was not a white man's device to control black numbers, but a simple demographic necessity. Black poverty was caused by too few jobs, "and there are too few jobs because there are too many people".

Dr de Beer's remarks were none the less, primarily directed at the black population, which is growing much faster than other racial groups. Many blacks will undoubtedly see them as mainly reflecting the white minority's fear that its monopoly of political power could be threatened as the population imbalance gets worse.

The answer to that, Dr de Beer contended, was that unless the birth rate was curbed voluntarily "circumstances will deteriorate to such an extent that a lowering of fertility would in any case have to follow, whether by compulsory measures, from the state, or by a rise in mortality and misery".

According to Dr de Beer, the maximum population South Africa could sustain without strain would be about 68 million, because of limited food supplies. "On demographic terms we are just around the corner from 68 million".

On the face of it this seems rather alarmist. The latest predictions estimate that the population of 27,319,580 will rise to 38,404,500 by the year 2000, and 47,804,570 by the year 2020. So Dr de Beer's "maximum" is still some way off. Moreover, water supplies could improve if joint plans to tap Lesotho's abundant resources are successful.

There is no doubt, however, that population trends are worrying for whites, implying that they would drop from 15.46 per cent of the population today to 13.2 per cent by the end of the century. By the year 2020 the black population is expected to rise from 19.5 million to about 37 million, increasing its share of the total from 71.3 per cent to 77.8 per cent.

The white birth-rate had declined to the point where the white population is barely reproducing itself, and the trend is towards zero growth at in most industrialized countries. Blacks are, by contrast, growing by 1.6 per cent a year; the mixed-race population by 1.3 per cent; and Asians by 1.1 per cent.

Historically, immigration has added on average between 20,000 and 30,000 a year to the white population (after deducting emigrants).

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## Fighting in Chad close to frontier

Ndjamena, Chad, Nov 11 — Fierce fighting broke out early today in eastern Chad near the frontier with Sudan, according to sources here.

The fighting centred on the towns of Iriba and Adre and involved the Armed Forces of the North (FAN) of Mr Hissène Habré, the rebel former defence minister, and troops of the Revolutionary Democratic Council of Mr Ayl Ahmed Agabach, the Foreign Minister.

It comes after two days of infiltration across the border by the FAN, the sources said. The number of troops involved and details of their weapons were not known.

"Iriba, Adre and Guéréda were among the first towns to be evacuated by Libyan troops after Libya's decision on November 3 to pull out at the request of President Goukouni Oueddei. Mr Ayl's forces, which are generally considered pro-Libyan, took over control of the towns after the Libyans left."

No comment from the Government was available on the resumption of internal fighting, FAN was reported to have said at the beginning of this year after violent fighting when President Goukouni called on the Libyans for aid.

The Libyan news agency Jana, monitored in Paris, said all Libyan troops had withdrawn from Iriba and Guéréda and were no longer responsible for their defence.

However, the Zairean advance guard of the pan-African peacekeeping force for Chad has had to postpone its arrival at Ndjamena because the airport was blocked by withdrawing Libyans, a reliable source said today.

About 500 Zairean paratroopers were expected on board French military aircraft last Sunday, but 13 weeks reserved for their officers in the capital's two main hotels were still empty.

In the past 48 hours the Libyan withdrawal has speeded, with aircraft flying out night and day. Yesterday seven Libyan aircraft — two Ilyushin "76" heavy-lifters and three DC-9s — were loaded with military equipment at the same time.

Mr Kassir Delwa Kamoukoye, the Justice Minister, said today the arrival of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) force was still imminent. It depended only on the availability, possibilities and goodwill of each of the participating countries.

There was no point in assembling all the contingents at Lagos before dispatching them to Chad. "Chad is big enough to take them all", he said.

□ Lagos: Foreign Ministers of participating countries in the OAU will make final arrangements for the dispatch of the troops when they meet in Lagos tomorrow.

## Zimbabwe's new army Civil war guerrilla factions united

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Nov 11

The military integration exercise in Zimbabwe has been completed, ending a programme which military authorities believe has few parallels in history.

The process, to fuse three hostile military forces into a single national army at the end of a civil war, ended the last of the 40 battalions integrated under British trainers passed out last week. Meanwhile, senior officers were considering the next consolidation stage.

There have been a number of occasions since the formation of the first unit when faction fighting between Zips and Zambas guerrillas in a turbulent atmosphere could have wrecked the plan.

Given that background, and the events of February when three battalions disintegrated in bloody fighting in and around Bulawayo, there is an atmosphere of buoyant confidence in military headquarters here.

The British Military Advisory and Training Team (BMATT), working with senior officers of Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu force and Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zips and members of the former Rhodesian security forces, integrated training in June last year.

By the end of the year, nine battalions had been formed

and plans were in hand to speed up the operation. From January, three battalions a month were being formed and by the end of last month 40 battalions comprising about 44,000 former guerrillas had been through the so-called "super sausage machine".

Of the 40 units, three were dissolved after February's violence and the soldiers redeployed in new battalions. With another three former Rhodesian African Rifles Battalions and three specialist units, the Zimbabwe national army has about 50,000 men and a total, including support units, of about 65,000. That is one of Africa's biggest armies.

□ Nairobi: A two-man team from the Commonwealth Secretariat is in Uganda to assess how a commonwealth military training team can help President Milton Obote to raise standards in his army (Chatterbox writes).

A British major and a sergeant are carrying out the same task in Uganda's army, and have seen Ugandan Ministers and military leaders. They are due to report to the Commonwealth Secretariat next week.

A British sergeant and a sergeant are carrying out the same task in Uganda's army, and have seen Ugandan Ministers and military leaders. They are due to report to the Commonwealth Secretariat next week.

## US and Tunisia discuss closer military links

From Godfrey Morrison, Tunis, Nov 11

The United States has pledged continuing support for the independence and security of Tunisia, whose main defence worry is its immediate eastern neighbour, Colonel Gaddafi's Libya.

A warm statement of support "for our very good friend, President Bourguiba, and our very good friends, the Tunisians" came from Mr Francis West, the United States Assistant Defence Secretary, after a one-hour meeting with the Tunisian leader yesterday.

The meeting came after two days of discussions here by the joint American-Tunisian Military Commission, whose establishment was announced last week.

Diplomatic sources said that the Commission discussed ways to deepen bilateral military cooperation and ways to increase the effectiveness of Tunisia's modest armed forces. Although Washington supplies arms to several Arab states, the only Arab state with which military cooperation has been formalised to the extent of a joint commission is Jordan.

Washington agreed a \$95m (about £25m) military loan to Tunisia a couple of months

ago and has offered to sell the Tunisians 54 M60 tanks and five F5 fighter jets. The sale was discussed at the talks, the sources said.

Tunisia shares American concern about Libya because in January last year a group of Libyan-trained Tunisians took over, and managed to hold for a couple of days, the southern town of Gafsa, the wharves of which was the start of a rebellion against the Government.

Tunisia is one of America's closest friends in the Arab world even though it disapproves of the Camp David process. A few days ago Mr Ben Kasbi Bessbi, the Foreign Minister, described relations with Washington as friendly and privileged.

Tunisian armed forces are lightly armed because the Government has always been reluctant to spend heavily on defence (in recent years defence has taken between 8 and 10 per cent of government spending) but the 1974 incident gave the Tunisians a nasty shock and in recent months they have been casting round their other arms suppliers such as France, Italy and Austria with a view to modernizing their defence capability.

## STRIP SHOW STUDENTS EXPELLED

From Ken Jones, Johannesburg, Nov 11

Sixteen students have been expelled from South Africa's largest university for attending a strip show. They were brought before a disciplinary committee at the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education in the southwest Transvaal after a party to celebrate the end of the academic year.

They had hired a stripper to entertain them in a factory premises well away from the university.

Five of the students have been expelled from the university with immediate effect. One of them was banned for life, the other four may apply for readmission over the next few years. The expulsion of the other 11 students was suspended on condition that they commit no further misdemeanours.

A number of other students were expected to appear before the disciplinary committee.

## Antigua joins UN

New York — Antigua and Barbuda claimed its seat in the United Nations General Assembly yesterday to become the 157th member state. One of the smaller members, the Caribbean island group has a population of only 75,000.

## Castro says US is set for invasion

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 11

The Washington Post today published a letter in its correspondence column from President Fidel Castro in which the Cuban leader claimed that reports of Cuban troops in Nicaragua were part of "a campaign of falsehood and lies" by the United States Government. It was aimed at setting the stage for American intervention against Cuba, he alleged.

The two-page letter, which was received by the newspaper yesterday, denounced a report published last month by Mr Rowland Evans and Mr Robert Novak, the syndicated columnists, which stated that behind the destruction last month of a strategic bridge over the Limpopo river in eastern El Salvador, the Cubans may have been behind the destruction. Last month of a strategic bridge over the Limpopo river in eastern El Salvador, the Cubans may have been behind the destruction.

In his letter President Castro described the report as "troubling and absolutely false".

The Cuban leader's letter reflects what appears to be a conviction in Cuba, fuelled by recent statements by Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, that the United States is considering military action against Cuba and Nicaragua.

At a press conference yesterday, President Reagan said twice that Washington had no plans to intervene militarily in Central America.

## Armistice Day unity honoured in France

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 11

Five thousand torch-bearing ex-servicemen marched slowly up the Champs Elysees, to the Arc de Triomphe, between two rows of national servicemen carrying red, white and blue lamps, and formed a guard of honour around President Mitterrand when he rekindled the Flame of Memory on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Among them were 41 former pilots of both world wars from 10 allied countries and from West Germany, who came especially to Paris for the occasion.

The President had expressed the wish that the ceremonies marking this year's Armistice Day should be especially impressive and colourful. They coincide with the sixtieth anniversary of the solemn burial under the Arc on January 28, 1921, of the unknown soldier, chosen from among three unidentified servicemen by M. Auguste Thié, who was present today.

Like the July celebrations, M. Mitterrand was anxious that this year's Armistice Day should be an occasion to demonstrate in a spectacular fashion the close communion between the nation and its Army, in the spirit of the concepts of the French Revolution in 1793.

Among those attending were four British pilots, 11 Americans, including Colonel Charles Dolan, the last survivor of the volunteers of the famous Lafayette Squadron, eight Canadians, seven Frenchmen, five Hungarians, one Italian, and one South African.

Among the three West German pilots were two pilots of the squadron of von Richthofen, the German ace in the First World War, and a Messerschmitt 109 pilot who served on the Russian front in the second.

Each of 41 pilots had at least five "kills" to his credit, but some, like George Vaughan, the most decorated aviator of the American Air Force; Lord Balfour, the German Carl August von Schöneck and the Frenchman Louis Chatriot, have many more. Receptions were given for them at the British and American embassies, and the Air Ministry. The American group is being flown back to the United States by Concorde by courtesy of Air France.

In the morning, the president laid a wreath at the Arc de Triomphe in honour of the million and a half French dead of two world wars. A thousand troops from all three services were on parade, and massed on either side of the Unknown Soldier's Tomb were the national flags of 100 associations of French and foreign ex-servicemen, including the British and American Legion and those of 41 disbanded French regiments.

## Schmidt in jobless talks

Bonn, Nov 11 — Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, was meeting West German union leaders, industrialists and bankers tonight to discuss rising unemployment and signs of government disarray over economic policy.

Herr Schmidt, under pressure from the unions and his Social Democratic Party to take action against unemployment, told Cabinet ministers today to stop making contradictory statements about the economy. Herr Kurt Becker, the chief government spokesman, said "the Chancellor complained about a 'taste for self-advertisement' and government politicians."

Tonight's talks are expected to discuss trade union proposals for big job creation schemes to deal with the unemployment since 1982. It now stands at 2.35 million — 5.9 per cent of the workforce — and ministers have said it may go above two million next year. — Reuter.

## India maintains stand on nuclear fuel

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, Nov 10

The supply of nuclear fuel to India by the United States, an important irritant in the uncomfortable relationship between the two countries, may at last be settled in talks starting in Washington on Thursday.

There are signs that the agreement under which the United States sells enriched uranium to India will be ended. It seems that both sides would like to see it cancelled, but neither wishes to be seen taking the initiative. In any case, there are almost as many difficulties in ending it as in sustaining it.

The argument not only touches on Indo-American relations but also touches on the sensitive matter of Indian pride in technological achievement and the determination to be self-sufficient, which strongly characterizes Indian attitudes.

In particular, India wants the self-respect and prestige, as well as the practical benefits, of a strong atomic energy programme.

It is a veteran nuclear

nation, with 28,000 people working in 25 establishments. It showed a certain capability with its test explosion in the Rajasthan desert in 1974, but while initial progress was good and hopes high, the programme has slowed in the past few years.

India did not have the broad and strong industrial network vital to the growth of a nuclear industry. Energy fuelled production has fallen far short of targets. It had been predicted that by this year the capacity of atomic power stations would be 8,000 megawatts (MW), whereas in fact it is 640 MW. Work on 12 big schemes has fallen up to four years behind and costs have doubled.

In the next five years, however, the country hopes to have an extra 960 MW capacity in plants built and fuelled without foreign help, the 20-year aim is to have nuclear capacity of 10,000 MW, about 10 per cent of the national requirement.

Atomic plants which will start operating during the

next few years will help to make India self-sufficient in fuel. It is estimated that three power stations expected to go into production by 1985 will make about 8800 of plutonium a year.

India regards this kind of independence as fundamental. Its first nuclear power station, at Tarapur, 50 miles north of Bombay, is American-built and American fuelled.

In 1963 the United States agreed to ship uranium rods to Tarapur for 35 years. In the past four years, however, supplies have been delayed and withheld because of India's refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to submit plants to international monitoring.

Moreover, American legislation of 1978 made the supply of fuel illegal.

India took exception to what it regarded as an attempt by a powerful country to dictate to a developing one. It regarded the insistence on inspection as hypocritical in

view of the refusal of countries like the United States to open their own plants.

India received its last shipments, totalling 38.6 tons, last year. But "after" the United States Senate supported President Carter's decision to honour the agreement and to shore up the relationship.

The Americans say the agreement gives them the right to Tarapur's spent fuel. India says that if the United States cancels the agreement it must drop this claim. It goes to the Washington talks looking for an American decision of the arrangement will count as annulment.

Whatever happens in Washington, India has already said firmly that Tarapur fuel belongs to India and it does not need American permission to process it. The question of whether India should develop nuclear weapons with power station by-products remains open. India insists on making an independent decision.

## Britain says 'no' to FAO budget proposals

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Nov 11

Mr Neil Marten, Minister for Overseas Development, bluntly told the conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization here today that the British Government could not support the agency's budget proposals.

Implicit in his speech were two criticisms. The first was that administrative expenses should be kept under better control. The increase in the budget proposed by Mr Edouard Saouma, the re-elected Lebanese director-general, is from the current £27m to £36.8m (£196m).

The Americans attacked the budget yesterday and the organization is facing the difficulty of a growing reluctance by the main contributing nations to accept rising budgetary demands. Mr Marten said: "Like some other members, we have looked with a common concern at the growth in budgets of United Nations specialised agencies."

"We do not think a case has been made for FAO's proposed rate of budget growth at the present time. We ask no more of FAO than we are trying to achieve in our own government administration in the United Kingdom."

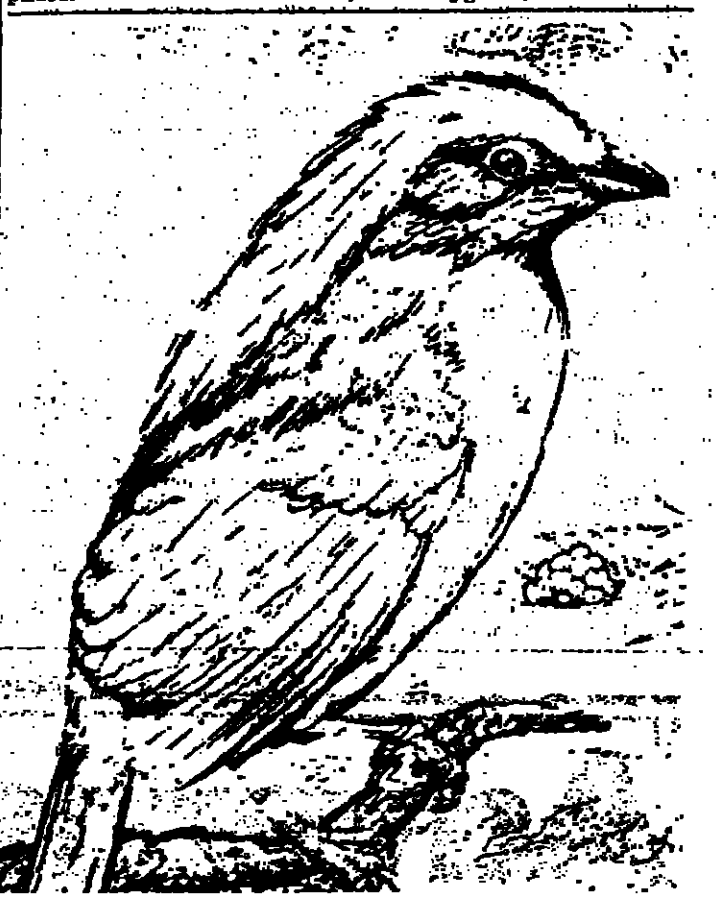
His second implied objection was that the distribution of aid did not ensure most help to the most needy. "We must also ensure that the poorest people have a diet which meets their needs", he said. "There are indications of clear progress worldwide but stagnation in Africa. It is often a matter of training in food hygiene."

## Last minute hitch hits the shuttle

From Nicholas Hirst, Cape Canaveral, Nov 11

Space shuttle scientists today were trying to solve a problem in the electronic system which relays flight information to ground control at Houston.

Officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) emphasize that the problems which keep arising with the space shuttle Columbia are to be expected in a vehicle still in its research and development phase.



The reports of the extinction of the yellow-fronted bowerbird have been exaggerated. This is a sketch of the bird, which has been found in a New Guinea rain forest. The species was thought dead for 85 years. The name comes from the bower built by this male for courting.

There are hundreds of factories.

Thousands of workers.

And millions of £'s...



## Moscow comes out fighting over submarine

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Nov 11

The Soviet Union today vigorously denied that submarine No 137 which went aground near the Karlskrona Swedish naval base was engaged in espionage or carrying nuclear warheads.

In the first substantial comment on the affair, which has severely strained Soviet relations with Scandinavia, Tass today accused Washington of raising a hullabaloo over what it called a routine navigation error in order to discredit Soviet proposals for a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe.

A defiant commentary repeated the Soviet submarine captain's assertion that the ship's navigation instruments failed on a training trip. It said Western propaganda had seized on this incident to "falsify and distort the truth" and "stir up hysteria". Hostile Western reaction was disproportionate to the incident and clearly politically motivated, Tass said.

Why and who should be blamed for this incident, an ordinary, routine navigation error, especially in a sea such as the Baltic with its complicated floor relief and coastline? The agency asked.

The answer, it went on, was the Reagan Administration. Washington was using the incident to dispel anti-American sentiment in Europe. Mr George Bush, the Vice-President, was conducting the orchestra of misinformation.

Tass said the movement to set up a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe and protests against the deployment of new Nato missiles were gaining ground in Western Europe, especially Scandinavia. These protests were becoming more anti-American in character as it was the United States that wanted to deploy the new missiles.

Washington had, therefore, used the incident to "muddle the thoughts of the submarine in Sweden, demanding an end to the



Streamlined to save fuel. The first Boeing 757, nearing completion in Renton, Washington state, after the fitting of its vertical and horizontal tail sections. The fuselage of the new airliner was joined with the wing three weeks ago and upper left is the 757 static test airframe's mid-fuselage section, which will be taken to Boeing's flight centre in Seattle, where it will be joined to other fuselage sections for installation in a test rig.

## Prisoners' rights defended

Stockholm. Sweden's largest military exercises for about 12 years in the far north of the country next March, a defence staff spokesman said today. (Reuters reports) He said the manoeuvres, involving 20,000 men, had been planned for more than a year.

## Pollution kills Japanese fauna

From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo, Nov 11

Industrial pollution, a by-product of Japan's economic success, has, poisoned the atmosphere to such a degree during the past three decades that entire species of reptiles, fish, insects, birds and other forms of wildlife have disappeared from large areas of the country and are threatened with extinction, a government survey said today.

Doctors at Japan's National Cancer Centre claim that laboratory experiments on rats show that chemicals contained in diesel fumes are a source of cancer.

Officials in Japan's Environmental Agency who have studied the effects of pollution on wildlife during the past three years said they were shocked by the results of their survey. "We did not think things were this bad when we started the project,"

a spokesman for the agency said.

The study, carried out with the help of 100,000 officials at a cost of £1.2m, shows that many species of insects and birds face extinction or are extinct because rivers, ponds, streams, marshes and other sources of water have been polluted by industrial waste.

Although Japan has taken great strides in clearing up industrial pollution in recent years, the survey shows that the country's "economic miracle" will leave a permanent scar on its wildlife.

The survey said: "The numbers of dragonflies, fireflies, salamanders and other forms of insects, birds and animals living in ponds and waterways all over Japan have decreased drastically and in some cases they are extinct or face extinction."

The giant water bug, once found in ponds and waterways throughout Japan, has disappeared in nine prefectures and is nearly extinct. Scientists could identify only 133 of the 201 types of dragonfly which used to live in Japan before it began its postwar climb to emerge as the world's second leading industrial power in the 1980s.

Salamanders, a protected species because of a belief that a person who eats the reptile will enjoy a long life, are being destroyed in polluted waters. The numbers of many species of fresh-water fish, such as the Japanese bitterling and sticklebacks, have decreased drastically.

Mr Koichi Watanabe, an ornithologist, said that the population of water birds, such as duck and heron, had shrunk to a dangerous level.

## Poland looks back on 1918 Communists join big independence rallies

Warsaw, Nov 11.—Poland today marked its 1918 independence day in an unprecedented scale, with the Communists joining in celebrations of an event they used to shun.

Mr Henry Jablonski, the head of state, left the main ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw. "Poland's rebirth as an independent state in 1918, had been hitherto ignored by the Communists since they took power after the Second World War. The official news agency PAP said today's ceremony was a gathering of all who sought national freedom of understanding. But there were signs that this was still a distant goal. The free trade union movement Solidarity did not officially take part and labour and student unrest continued throughout the country.

Solidarity leaders in Warsaw planned to join in a huge rally tonight organized by a non-communist committee including dissidents, independent students and a group campaigning on behalf of what it calls political prisoners.

Mr Lech Walesa, the solidarity leader, continued his campaign to persuade workers to negotiate, instead of striking. He met strikers at the Sosnowiec coal mine and was due to travel later to the region of Zielona Gora; paralysed by a general strike for more than three weeks.

The Sosnowiec miners, who are staging a sit-in below ground, want the national television to broadcast a programme explaining how gas was thrown at a crowd of women, children and workers outside their colliery.

Mr Walesa took a rally of the miners that a solution of Poland's problems "by strength does not come into consideration, but it cannot be excluded".

Another sit-in, by farmers in Siedlice, east of Warsaw, appeared to be growing into a nationwide protest with delegates from Rural Solidarity

arriving there from all over Poland.

National leaders of Rural Solidarity last night gave their blessing to the Siedlice protesters whose 27 demands include constitutional guarantees for private farmers, religious instruction in state schools, their own national weekly publication and free office space for the union's branches.

Student strikes spread to at least five cities, and a strike by newspaper delivery men in the south-west stopped papers in four regions for the second day running.

The Communist Party Politburo said last night that the continued unrest was damaging the economy and Soviet-block alliances and added that a front of national accord could function properly only in social peace. The idea of such a front was floated during last week's meeting between Church, Communist Party and Solidarity leaders.

The Politburo called for further talks at all levels, but Solidarity said it was awaiting an official reply to its request for negotiations to begin in Warsaw on Friday, Reuters.

## BALLOON IN PACIFIC CROSSING

From Our Correspondent, Copenhagen, Nov 11

A balloon and its four-man crew, which lifted off from Nagashima, Japan, drifted across the northern Pacific yesterday, the first day of its trans-Pacific flight, a spokesman for the balloonists said.

"If things continue the way they are going, it should cross the Oregon coast near Astoria tomorrow," the spokesman added. But balloons cannot be steered — they go where the winds take them — so it is impossible to predict where they will end up.

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, Miss Jane Woodward, the team spokesman said the balloon was about 1,050 miles from Japan by late yesterday afternoon. — AP.

## WAR ENDS AFTER 172 YEARS

From Our Correspondent, Copenhagen, Nov 11

One hundred and seventy-two years of hostilities between Denmark and Huescar, a tiny southern Spanish village near Granada, were officially ended today.

A formal armistice between the two warring parties was signed at a ceremony in Huescar.

Whilst the rest of Spain has never been at war with Denmark, the council of Huescar, infuriated by Denmark's decision to side with France against Britain during the Napoleonic Wars, declared war on Denmark in 1809. Denmark had been unaware until recently of the fact that a state of belligerency still existed.

## Figueiredo returns to power

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo, Nov 11

Vice-President Antonio Aureliano Chaves, the first civilian to rule Brazil since 1964, is to hand power back to President João Figueiredo tomorrow, occupying the presidency for 51 days. The President had been temporarily ousted after suffering a heart attack.

A table has been broken, and in no longer seems inevitable that President Figueiredo will be succeeded by another four-star general when his six-year term ends in 1985. Senhor Aureliano Chaves, behaving with considerable discretion, has made a profound mark in Brazil. He improved his chances for the succession and opened it up to other candidates from among state governors and elsewhere.

The calm of the period has allayed fears that civilian rule would be chaotic and shown that key figures in Brazil

are now prepared to try using constitutional methods for solving unexpected crises.

When an earlier military president was incapacitated, in 1969, power did not pass to his civilian vice-president but was retained by the military. This time, although there were indications that a small group would have preferred it to be otherwise, most influential politicians seem to have considered that the constitution could be adhered to without risk.

The episode also brought fresh air to a political scene which was growing tense, as the unpopular government seeks ways of maintaining power through the Social Democratic party (PDS) which supports it. Elections are scheduled for next November. During Senhor Aureliano's short tenure the party lost a vote in Congress which may make it

more difficult for the PDS to win as many state governorships as had been hoped.

Several government members voted with the Opposition or abstained, but the vote was accepted in a way which might not have been the case had General Figueiredo been in his presidential palace.

The period has also seen further weakening of the extremely centralized system of power which had already suffered a blow with the departure of the powerful General Golbery do Couto e Silva in July. Power now seems to be slipping from the small group of men, most of them generals, who have for several years met daily with the President.

General Figueiredo has said that more power will be given to his Vice-President in future.

## French play down Peking love affair

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 11

M. Michel Jobert, the French Foreign Trade Minister, who returned this morning from a visit to China, tried to play down the dispute over a romance between a French diplomat in Peking and a Chinese woman artist.

Miss Li Shuang was sentenced on Monday to two years in a reeducation camp for staying in M. Emmanuel Bellefroid's room and for "incitement to debauchery".

M. Jobert anxious to avoid repercussions on France's relations with China, M. Louis Mermeas, has urged the Chinese Government to release Miss Li Shuang. He hoped the matter could be settled before he led a delegation of the steering committee of the Assembly to Peking in January.

## Hongkong looks to bright future after 1997

From Richard Hughes, Hongkong, Nov 11

Pronouncements of Peking and Hongkong officials have raised hopes for the Crown Colony's future after 1997, when the 99-year lease on the New Territories expires.

In Peking, Mr Liao Chengzhi, China's Director of Overseas Affairs, has given renewed assurances to visiting Chinese business leaders from Hongkong about the colony's future "so long as Hongkong remains useful to China".

Mr Jimmy McGregor, the director of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, has predicted that Hongkong's status would continue into the next century "because China will reach an accommodation with Britain by 1985".

A recent government census has revealed that Hongkong's population of 5,110,000, while as dense as Tokyo's and New York's, is "much more affluent and better educated than 10 years ago".

Mr Fong Yun-wah, the vice-president of the Real Estate Developers' Association of Hongkong, said that Mr Liao, who is also Vice-Chairman of China's National People's Congress, had emphasized the importance which Peking placed on its Hongkong competitors' "personal and professional capabilities".

Mr Liao, however, had expressed concern over the weakness of the Hongkong dollar and the outflow of capital from the colony. He also gave Mr Fong a clear indication "that there was positively no formula at least not yet for the solution of the historical problems of Hongkong and Macao".

Mr Fong added, however, that there are many cases of China's signing trade and investment agreements with Hongkong and foreign investors in China's special economic zones beyond 1997.

**CORRECTION**

In the table of chess moves in the fourth game of the world championship yesterday, the 26th move by Korchnoi (black) should have read Q-K7 not Q-K2. The 42nd move by black should have been K-R1 not K-RP.

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## On the Origin of a Victorian sage

Charles Darwin  
By Peter Brent

(Heinemann, £12.50)

Apart from Walter Scott, Charles Darwin must have been the nicest really great man about whose character we have sufficient evidence to judge. He was, one might almost say, systematically kind: gracious in personal relations even in the face of violent assaults, loving and benevolent to those around him, constantly aware of and resistant to cruelty. His response to his often vehement critics was without rancour, he was refused to abuse only by the ill-natured mendacity of Richard Owen, the more too successful fight-manager of Samuel Wilberforce.

When Darwin's great ally and champion T. H. Huxley was going through a period of weakness and financial worry, Darwin got up a collection of £2,000 for him. Huxley was a fine and resourceful writer but his note of thanks must still have some value as testimony. "Have I said a word of appreciation for your own letters?" he wrote to Darwin. "I shall keep it for my children that their children may know what manner of man their father's friend was and why he loved him."

He was modest, immensely resolute, and hard-working. At times in his long trip in the Beagle he showed great physical bravery, and throughout the five years suffered irremediably from sea-sickness. Credit should be given too for remaining on excellent terms for nearly all the time with that fine seaman and somewhat rugged character, Captain Fitzroy. Despite

the harassments of illness and, less frequently, of intense public disapproval from most quarters, Darwin maintained a consistent level of gaiety and cheerfulness. That is something that tends to be disguised by the usual pictures which show him at a great age and heavily bearded.

His progressive family background may have disquisition of slavery, but his own temperament intensified the emotion. One of the first topics on which he came quite noisily to disagree with Captain Fitzroy, it remained a constant preoccupation. He felt strongly about child labour and opposed vivisection of a merely experimental kind, unjustified by a definite connection with the relief of human suffering. In an early statement of his fundamental idea — that man is a part of nature — this concern is present. "If we choose to let conjecture run wild then animals — our fellow brethren in pain, distress, suffering and famine, our slaves in the most laborious works, our companions in our amusements — they may partake from our origins in one common ancestor."

It is hardly surprising that the Darwin's butler stayed with them for 33 years. Darwin died on April 6, 1882, and Peter Brent has got in early with the first century biography. His qualifications for the task are not obvious. He has had no scientific training and his previous writings have been on colourful figures such as Munigo Park, T. E. Lawrence and Captain Scott. More directly worrying is a book on Hindu gurus, the fruit of an

acknowledged "interest in the mystical traditions of Asia." But apart from an occasional reference to the visionary character of Darwin's belief in the all-inclusive unity of nature, contained in space and time and subject to a single scheme of laws, the mysterious East does not make its presence felt.

The style has some insecure moments when mention is made of "exclusive Shrewsbury School", "the echelons of the aristocracy", "lectures that enthused and encouraged young men" and "lifestyle". Too much time is spent on laborious conjecture about Darwin's numerous interests and activities. Much is made out of some chatty letters from a Fanny Owen in his pre-Beagle days. There is a lot of neat description, but no serious purpose, about a near-miss involvement with a Miss Horner soon after he got back. There is less than perfect delicacy in some speculations about the secret of the matrimonial couch, a reference to "images of... Emma sexually available in the muffling darkness of that waiting Gower Street bedroom".

Darwin's life holds quite a lot of drama without the fantasy. The voyage of the Beagle proved that with the excellent television series. There was also the dreadful moment in 1858, the year before *The Origin of the Species*, when Wallace's letter came, saying that he had just hit on the idea of natural selection through reading Malthus, in the same way that Darwin had 20 years earlier. Peter Brent does well by the Oxford meeting of the British

Association where Huxley gloriously demolished Bishop Wilberforce. Macmillan's Magazine said that "one lady fainted and had to be carried out".

His corrections of legend are more persuasive than his attempts to add to it. He points out that Darwin's relations with his father were, for the period, really rather good and also that Darwin was distinctly well off. He rejects the view that Darwin's long illness was Chagas's disease, picked up on his travels and not identified until 20 years after his death. One is reluctant to see this fine detergent of Freudian excess go, but a case is made.

The book gives a careful, faithful account of the development of Darwin's thinking and of the more concrete and immediately accessible aspects of his human and intellectual context. But this background is a bit insubstantial, as if got up specially for the occasion. Darwin is altogether too large a figure, both in the history of science and in the general intellectual life of his time, to be adequately handled so parochially. Given this lack of anchorage the book is too long and is made to seem longer by its ugly, overblown physical form.

Peter Brent's propensity for psychologizing pays off in his convincing linkage of Darwin's extreme good temper, self-disparaging modesty, country seclusion, even his illness as all facets of his determination to protect himself and his work from interference. But the full significance of that work is never made clear.

Anthony Quinton



## The Pope's divisions

The Papacy in the Modern World  
By J. Derek Holmes

(Burns & Oates, £9.95)

Despite the influence of strong personalities such as Mr. Benelli, and the revival of the consultative Synod of bishops, the Papacy remains obstinately autocratic in style and operation. Dr. Holmes' brisk canter through its recent history, therefore, concentrates fairly enough on the policies and personalities of the Popes themselves from Benedict XV to John Paul I. Brief and questioning refer-

ences to the present Pope round the book off as it began, in an atmosphere of external conflict and internal dispute. But the main theme of the book is the Pope's quest for peace and the defence of the integrity of the Catholic Church, and their implications for relationships between the Vatican and the power politics of secular states.

The narrative is crisp and readable, covering a remarkable amount of ground. When the author pauses for reflection on controversial issues, ranging from the condemnation of Action Française to Papal attitudes

towards the Nazi persecution of the Jews and the publication of the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, his judgments are generally favourable but judicious. The note of apologetics is subdued. Venturing a tentative judgment on Pope John Paul II, for example, Dr. Holmes writes that this intelligent and attractive man is very familiar with many of the problems, particularly some of the political problems, facing the contemporary papacy, yet at the same time he seems curiously unsympathetic and even comparatively indifferent to many important issues that have been discussed and argued by Catholics over the last few decades.

This again emphasizes the importance of the personalities of the Popes in determining the active politics of the Papacy. And this makes it difficult to generalize about the evolution of the Papacy in modern times, although Dr. Holmes rightly claims that the moral prestige of the Papacy has risen at the time when the concept and understanding of infallibility has been qualified and stifled. His concise narrative provides a workmanlike brief for the debate on the influence of the Vatican. Would Brezhnev today ask sardonically, how many divisions has the Pope? George Bull

## Travels with a passionate donkey

An English Journey  
By Richard West

(Chatto & Windus, £8.50)

Travelling around England with an innocent eye and an opinionated noddle has been a rich source of the higher journalism from Defoe, Boswell, and Cobbett to Chesterton and Orwell. There is nothing we English like more than to hear each other abused. Now Richard West has made his tour through the whole island of England to make this report, which is predictably sharp, lively, funny, and depressing.

Twenty years ago he started as a young reporter on *The Manchester Guardian*, becoming its Yorkshire correspondent. For most of the time since then he has been a foreign correspondent, reporting notably from Vietnam, black Africa, and Central Europe. So the great changes of the past 20 years in society, industry, townscape, and manners struck him more forcibly than those of us who stayed at home and became gradually accustomed to the tides of change that washed over us. He started his journey in Manchester, partly because he is fond of the place, but also

because he considers that it has endured to the full most of the follies besetting England — from city centre development, to local government reorganization, to being the seat of the Equal Opportunities Commission. Alas, poor country, as he worked his way clockwise around it he found that things had mostly gone to the dogs; or, if not to the dogs, to public relations officers, Colonel Seifert, teeming bureaucrats, and the sex industry. Some of his cries of outrage have become popular wisdom. Not many of us now have a good word to say for tower blocks, or the range of proper

books one can buy at W. H. Smith's, or juke-boxes and fruit machines in pubs. But West screamed earlier and louder than most of us. Sometimes, for instance when he attacks feminism as wicked, or states that the move of *The Guardian* London lost the character of the newspaper as well as a lot of money, one might suspect him of doing it to annoy, because he knows it teases. But he means it. England cannot be all bad while it continues to produce such passionate travellers. Philip Howard

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## The crack in the glass

M15 British Security Service Operations 1909-1945  
By Nigel West

(Bodley Head, £7.95)

We have tended to see M15 through a glass darkly. But now, face to face? Not precisely. Mr West has produced another example of what I think of as homogenized history. There is no apparatus of notes and specific references to sources. The list of acknowledgements in the preface is substantially to anonymous individuals. One can only wonder how we can assess, for example, the credibility of "former members" of the intelligence services to whom thanks are offered? (Rejected old dogs can still have poisoned teeth). The narrative

harsh theme, but while it deals largely with man's inhumanity, towards the end signs of the triumph of man's humanity creep in. To read the work is a sobering experience.

A gentler yet still telling moral is pointed in Gerald Durrell's fable, *The Mockery Bird*. Zenaki is a ravishing bird, Ocean passage which, surviving to eat Arabs, Portuguese, French, Dutch and British, is due for sacrifice to progress, namely carving out an airfield and flooding the valleys for a power dam.

This joyous Eden, leisurely and lovingly described, is peopled entirely by stereotyped eccentrics, one single character, as it were, and best of all, the eccentric Old Etonian ruler, Kingy, "irretrievably as an avalanche". All the right things happen for a fairy-tale, with some harmless fun over caricatured missionaries, conservationists, British rule, BBC and press. *The Times* man is categorized as "harmless".

Western determination to introduce the miseries of industry is completed by a discovery in the flood-areas of two extinct species, the Mockery Bird, worshipped as a god, and its diet specialty the Ombu Tree. And the moral, gentle but serious... we are all mutually interdependent, and Nature is better than airfields.

Gillian Bradshaw brings a powerful imagination to work on what must be like to live in a time when magic, and the forces of darkness, still contend against the doomed world of 'Mr. Kinnear of Sumner' (Oxford, £5.95). Second volume of trilogy, is yet another gift for Arthurian buffs — and which of us, secretly or otherwise, is not? Gwalchmai (Gawain), as recounted by his self-appointed young farmer-son, Rhys, is on a quest for her, and equally on a quest of his own for a young noblewoman he once betrayed. This is a harsh book on a

flows on, readily indeed, but its surface effect is that of a smooth concrete floor which looks fine until a small crack in the corner makes you doubt the tensile strength of the whole.

And such cracks are visible. The snatch by the SS of Major Stevens and Captain Best at Venlo in November 1939 — so disastrous for Europe — is well known. Mr West intensifies the sense of disaster by reproducing part of *Informationsheft Gross Britannien*, an intelligence summary printed in 1940 to supply, *inter alia*, a hit list for the Gestapo after a successful invasion of England. Our how can we assess, for example, the credibility of "former members" of the intelligence services to whom thanks are offered? (Rejected old dogs can still have poisoned teeth). The narrative

There were Giants in the earth in those days, and the author makes a nice distinction between the attitudes of warrior-heroes and solid, somewhat faraway like Rhys and his forebears, and the few townsmen, mean and suspicious. Dialogue is adequately 1980s-medieval and apart from a bit too much hot hair and hot blue eyes, and tendency to eat "finch", the author is one of those who envily recapture the past.

The nature of friendship which comes suddenly into the line of three characters, is examined in Virginia Fagge's second novel, *Somewhere Else* (Constable, £5.95). Amanda's purposeless existence is a void since her father's death is filled almost magically by her discovery of an illegitimate brother, a runaway junk dealer in his late thirties. Between Gerald, whose initial motives are far from altruistic, his partner, the Denny, and Amanda, three secret and disparate associations evolve almost involuntarily, to a point beyond their control. If the denouement of *Somewhere Else* has a touch of contrivance, the delicate nuances of this trio of uncomfortable relationships are here explored with a subtlety fulfilling the promise of the author's first book.

Finally, for sheer elegant understatement, witty in concept and concise in phrasing, we have six tales by J. I. M. Stewart, with varied settings and content and a neat turn for the unexpected as well as agreeable complexity in character and situation. From the very start of the title story *The Bridge at Avea* (Collins, £6.95), when an elderly widow finds herself at the outset of an exclusive "Sins and Flowers" Greek tour in the company of her prize-bore ex-husband, and worse still, that he doesn't even recognize her, to *Know Yourself* in the hands of a master.

retire after the war "without further action being taken against them". How come? We are entitled to more than a copy at full face value Mr. West's laudatory account of M15's formidable expansion from "one man and a clerk in 1909" to Vernon Kell, up to the point when, in 1940, he was summarily dismissed by Churchill as soon as Winston became Prime Minister. Can we really endorse this verdict on the pre-war "regulars" of M15? Their great assets were robust common sense and uncomplicated patriotism — admirable qualities in the world as it was then. They would have been out of their element in the increasingly technological and multinational intelligence world of today." John Buchan, where art thou now?

The interesting core of Mr West's narrative is his considerable elaboration of the account given by Sir John Masterman in *The Double Cross System* of how we deceived the Germans by misinformation. Transmitted from Britain by agents (British or fictitious) who in practice were manipulated by M15, he has tracked, and talked to several of these shadowy figures: FREAK, GARBO, METEOR, ZIGAG etc. We must take his *brochure* on trust; but it is a most intriguing photographs vividly extend our awareness of what, in terms of the Second World War, was certainly the most outstanding and sophisticated operation carried out by M15. And, in any case, like a second Chapman Trencher, he has set the cat among M15's pigeons.

Ronald Lewin

Scapa Flow in terms of Wigan Pier. It may seem trivial, but it is disconcerting.

Indeed, such anomalies make one uneasy about copying at full face value Mr. West's laudatory account of M15's formidable expansion from "one man and a clerk in 1909" to Vernon Kell, up to the point when, in 1940, he was summarily dismissed by Churchill as soon as Winston became Prime Minister. Can we really endorse this verdict on the pre-war "regulars" of M15? Their great assets were robust common sense and uncomplicated patriotism — admirable qualities in the world as it was then. They would have been out of their element in the increasingly technological and multinational intelligence world of today." John Buchan, where art thou now?

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Ronald Lewin

Crime

Shadow of a Doubt  
By June Thomson

(Constable, £6.95)

The paperback covers scream with pulsating covers promising frenzied excitement within, and within, indeed, often enough all sorts of frenzied things are frenziedly splashed on to paper. But you can write a book that is simply gripping without any obvious excitement at all. If you are Suzanne and if a lesser light but mentionable in the same paragraph, you are June Thomson. Take a fancy clinic in the Essex countryside, have a taxi dinner party, then a disappearance, at last murder. But even when murder happens don't go for the gruesome, just simply describe people, their outward actions, the thoughts of some of them, their setting and the wider countryside around them. And by doing it as accurately as this, it all becomes vivid and it holds you.

A couple of examples: A man "huge, blunt, Ringers" rolls himself a cigarette and "the little oblong of tissue paper appeared as fragile as a moth's wing". Now you see it now you don't. And in the final confrontation both the murderer and quester, intelligently sensitive Chief Inspector Finch sit down in armchairs opposite each other "leaning forward, so that the interview took on the air of an absorbing tête-à-tête". No histrionics, no leaping to suicide through a convenient window, but a scene that suddenly comes as vividly present to the mind as if it were on telly. Underneath this vivid outward appearance there is a fine, deep understanding of what people are like, how they think, what makes them do as they do.

West's narrative is his considerable elaboration of the account given by Sir John Masterman in *The Double Cross System* of how we deceived the Germans by misinformation. Transmitted from Britain by agents (British or fictitious) who in practice were manipulated by M15, he has tracked, and talked to several of these shadowy figures: FREAK, GARBO, METEOR, ZIGAG etc. We must take his *brochure* on trust; but it is a most intriguing photographs vividly extend our awareness of what, in terms of the Second World War, was certainly the most outstanding and sophisticated operation carried out by M15. And, in any case, like a second Chapman Trencher, he has set the cat among M15's pigeons.

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By June Thomson

(Constable, £6.95)

The paperback covers scream with pulsating covers promising frenzied excitement within, and within, indeed, often enough all sorts of frenzied things are frenziedly splashed on to paper. But you can write a book that is simply gripping without any obvious excitement at all. If you are Suzanne and if a lesser light but mentionable in the same paragraph, you are June Thomson. Take a fancy clinic in the Essex countryside, have a taxi dinner party, then a disappearance, at last murder. But even when murder happens don't go for the gruesome, just simply describe people, their outward actions, the thoughts of some of them, their setting and the wider countryside around them. And by doing it as accurately as this, it all becomes vivid and it holds you.

A couple of examples: A man "huge, blunt, Ringers" rolls himself a cigarette and "the little oblong of tissue paper appeared as fragile as a moth's wing". Now you see it now you don't. And in the final confrontation both the murderer and quester, intelligently sensitive Chief Inspector Finch sit down in armchairs opposite each other "leaning forward, so that the interview took on the air of an absorbing tête-à-tête". No histrionics, no leaping to suicide through a convenient window, but a scene that suddenly comes as vividly present to the mind as if it were on telly. Underneath this vivid outward appearance there is a fine, deep understanding of what people are like, how they think, what makes them do as they do.

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THE ARTS

Cinema

# International superbeast

If John Landis's career continues on its present course, he will pass into Hollywood legend as the director who never made a flop. At the age of 31 he has five films under his belt, all of which have recouped their costs several times over. His smash-hit comedy, *National Lampoon's Animal House*, is one of the top ten biggest grossing films of all time and even his first venture, *Schlock*, which he describes as "perhaps the most self-indulgent movie ever made," became a cult film and is still going the rounds of the college circuit in America. With credentials like these, it seems extraordinary that he should have had to wait 11 years before being given the opportunity to make his latest film, *An American Werewolf in London*, which opens here this week. The script, which he wrote himself, was turned down by every major studio and it was only after his last film, *The Blues Brothers*, that he was finally able to go ahead.

The film does represent something of a change of direction for Landis, all of his previous films have been comedies and, although there is plenty of humour in *An American Werewolf in London*, it is primarily a horror film. That at least is how Landis sees it. But it is this problem of definition that bedevilled the project for so long. None of the studio executives whom Landis approached could make up his mind what heading the film should be classified under. In a profession obsessed with being able to stick convenient labels on everything, this was a major drawback. Landis, however, was unbowed in his determination to make the

film and left with some justification in view of his past record, that he had got a nose for a winner. "It was revenge that kept me going," he admits cheerfully. "I wanted to get my own back on all those people who said it would never work."

Landis had the idea for the film when he was working in Yugoslavia as a stuntman on *Kelly's Heroes*. "I was driving along one day when I saw this group of peasants conducting a funeral service. It turned out that the dead man had been a rapist and they were burying him at a crossroads in an unmarked grave so that his body wouldn't rise and cause any more havoc. The week before the United States had put a man on the moon and it seemed incredible to me that these people still believed in zombies."

"I thought it would be fun to take a ridiculous premise and treat it in an absolutely straightforward and realistic manner. I'd always been very keen on horror movies but I wanted to try and do something that would be both funny and frightening. There's always nervous laughter in a horror film but I didn't see why the show didn't have real belly-laughs mixed in with the scary bits."

"The next thing to do was to choose my monster. In the end I opted for werewolves because the myth of lycanthropy, the phenomenon of a man turning into a beast, crops up in every single country and culture. It's the only supernatural beast that's truly international. The film was set in England because it's the bastion of gothic horror and that was the kind of atmosphere I was after."

"I started out being very sceptical about the whole idea of lycanthropy but, although I'm not a firm believer, I wouldn't dismiss it out of hand any more. Of course, a lot of what we think are legends from the dim and distant past were actually dreamed up by Hollywood scriptwriters. It's common knowledge that one of the ways of killing a vampire is by shooting him with silver bullets. But that only came about because Curt Siodmak, who happened to be working on a *Dracula* script, was listening to *The Lone Ranger* on the radio and reckoned that if silver bullets were good enough for the Lone Ranger, they were probably good enough for Dracula as well."

"In one sense I love the way that movies have influenced our folklore to such an extent, but it does make it rather tricky to sort out fact from fiction, especially for someone like me who was virtually educated in the cinema."

Indeed Landis made up his mind when he was eight that he wanted to be a film director after his mother had taken him to see *The Seven Voyages of Sinbad*. When he left school he became a messenger boy for 20th Century Fox and since then he has never really looked back. One of the secrets of his success must be the seemingly boundless enthusiasm he brings to the job. There is also a broad manic streak in his character which shows clearly in his work. Although Landis is wary of any attempt to analyze his films, he will admit that narrow-mindedness is always one of his prime targets. So too is the automobile which he seems to take great pleasure in smashing up on screen. A hefty portion of the budget for *The*

First choose your monster... John Landis among the timber wolves

*Blues Brothers* must have gone towards the numerous cars that were summarily destroyed and the climax of *An American Werewolf in London* takes place around an enormous pile-up in Piccadilly Circus.

"I suppose it's a reaction against the way the car has taken over our lives. After all we've covered a good deal of the earth's surface with strips of tarmac to drive the damn things on, and in America especially, they've become almost the biggest status symbol of them all. But I don't want to take myself or my films too seriously. They're basically entertainment and my main concern is in giving people a good time."

Now that he is no longer typecast as a comedy director Landis is eager to try his hand at all manner of subjects. His next film will be a contemporary drama set in

Los Angeles and after that he is due to go on to the remake of *Dick Tracy*. He has also got a long-cherished ambition to make a film of Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee at the Court of King Arthur*. Landis is a great admirer of Twain and he certainly shares his relish for throwing rocks at the American establishment. The British establishment, however, seems to be more to his liking and *An American Werewolf in London* closes with a title card congratulating the Prince and Princess of Wales on their marriage. "I thought it would be appropriate since I was over here making the film when the engagement was announced and I got caught up in all the excitement. I like to think of it as the ultimate wedding souvenir."

John Preston

Opera news

## Serious loss to Italy

Rome. The French Government's decision to offer the post of general administrator of the Paris Opera from 1983 to Massimo Bogianckino revives fears that Italy is losing too many of the leading figures in its music to other countries. Bogianckino is undoubtedly the most gifted organizer at the moment in Italy's operatic life. He plans to move from Florence, where he is director of the Teatro Comunale, to Paris in August, and his departure will, in the words of one leading critic here, "inevitably leave a touch of bitterness in the heart of the Italian theatre." There is ample reason to suppose so. The list of voluntary semi-exiles is disconcerting. Riccardo Muti, Claudio Abbado and Carlo Maria Giulini still conduct here but are no longer based in Italy. The measure of Bogianckino's ability can be judged by his success in bringing both Muti and Giulini regularly to Florence to make their very different contributions to the Maggio Musicale.

Bogianckino has said that he hopes that Muti will continue to open the Maggio Musicale even after he himself has moved to Paris. The work Bogianckino has done in Florence and before that at La Scala comes first to mind because that is more recent. The real measure of his capacity, however, was the period between 1963 and 1968 when he was artistic director of the Rome Opera. His artistic achievement was high. Essentially he transformed the ailing opera house into a genuine centre of the city's cultural life. That may simply sound a conventional acknowledgment of

his success but it is far more, considering the difficulties of working in Rome, which, because of the nature of the city, are enormous.

Bogianckino drew heavily on artists living in or near Rome at that time. He brought in Giorgio de Chirico for instance to design Rossini's *Otello* and Manzoni for Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*. Eduardo de Filippo joined Giulini in staging *The Barber of Seville*. Lorin Maazel was here then and conducted for him; Serafin conducted his last performance in the opera house.

The point in reviving that period in Bogianckino's career is simply to show that his skill in refurbishing forgotten standards, or introducing new ones, remains his strength and was most dramatically revealed in the artistically co-ordinating atmosphere of Rome.

The attraction of Paris is clear. If the advent of Mitterrand means something to cultural terms it may be renewal and the search for the highest talents able to provide a new intellectual vitality. Bogianckino has studied in Paris and is at home in French cultural life. When his ambition was still to be a pianist, he studied in France under Cortot.

The Italian public must share that Blake-like "touch of bitterness in the heart" at the thought that the opportunity to witness a powerful gift for renewal has to be sought outside Italy. Not least among Bogianckino's achievements is that he is comfortably able to combine successes on the operatic stage with a highly progressive view of life.

Peter Nichols

## Welsh 'Fidelio' in London

Welsh National Opera are bringing four works, including their controversial production of *Fidelio*, to London next April for their third annual London festival sponsored by Amoco, at the Dominion Theatre.

On April 5 and 10 they present Verdi's *La forza del destino* in a new production by Joachim Herz, conducted by Richard Armstrong. The cast includes Elizabeth Vaughan, Claire Powell, Moises Parker and Norman Phillips.

Smetana's *The Bartered Bride* will be performed on April 6. The production, which opens in Cardiff on February 23, will be staged by Rudolph Noelle and conducted by the Russian Mark Ermler. This is the first time that the work of Rudolph Noelle, one of West Germany's leading theatre directors, will have been seen in

Britain. The opera will be sung in an English translation by Tony Harrison and the cast is led by Helen Field, Warren Ellisworth and Derek Hammond Stroud.

Bellini's *I puritani* will be sung in Italian on April 7, the first staging in London of the opera since the Covent Garden production in 1964. The new production, opening in Cardiff on March 10, is by Andrei Serbati. It is conducted by Julian Smith, and the cast includes Suzanne Murphy and Dennis O'Neal.

The fourth opera to be performed, on April 8, is Beethoven's *Fidelio* in Harry Kupfer's production which opened in London and was shown last month on BBC2. Richard Armstrong conducts the performance, with Anne Evans as Leonora and Dennis Bailey as Florestan.

Christopher Warman

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Alan Howard: temperamental range

### Richard II

Aldwych

At its first appearance in Stratford a year ago, I described Terry Hands's production as a compressed epic with the added definition that it has gained since then, qualification is no longer needed.

The show is an epic masterpiece, taking the spectator on a journey from the playing-card pageantry of the medieval world to the new age of dark corners and the stark, stark world of Alan Howard's Richard, a sun king who needs to be viewed through smoked glass, is followed by David Suchet's Bolingbroke, a careworn figure with steel-rimmed glasses in a black-clad candle-lit court.

The descent from the security of medieval kingship to the shaky succeeding age is the main gesture here as it was at Stratford. What gives the production its particular stamp is its success in releasing Richard II from the category of a tragic hero, a hero to which the lead performances contribute no less than the production detail.

Starting at the top, Mr Howard manages to dispatch this aristocratic role with barely an echo of the usual honeyed melancholy. What he does offer is an enormous temperamental range, broadly subdivided into private and public behaviour.

Let me offer a typical contrast between the two. In the opening scene, he delivers his opinion on the two challengers straight out to the house, then shuts his eyes on us. The King has briefly taken us into his confidence, and now the audience is an enemy that he is about to face with the dying Camet (Raymond Westwell). Mr Howard seems to explode in ungovernable fury, his voice cracking round the old man like a bullwhip; then, without a pause, he

turns to his private group of cronies, all smiles, for their applause at his performance. Until we find him, mortified into self-knowledge in the Pomfret cell, he is invariably surrounded by an audience, with whom he takes the stage-actor metaphor in the limit with glib mimicry, word games and glamorous self-display. He is a prankster from the start, and one of the most fascinating aspects of the reading is that it shows a sarcastic bully nursing into a subtle irony.

The development of Mr Suchet's Bolingbroke, in its austere way, is equally spectacular, and no less the revelation of an actor-diplomat, who knows how to play the irreproachable subject and when to turn brutally decisive, only overpowering his hand in the abdication scene where Richard gets the better of him, leading him with the regalia like a hatstand and pushing him into the throne, so as to turn his triumph into a fool's humiliation.

Where the production has grown most is in its treatment

of the York family, and especially their son Aumerle. Lycrism - always did have trouble in digesting the Yorks, and this time they are given their head in such a way that tragedy instantly collapses in their down-to-earth presence. As the Duchess's death is pronounced, York (Tony Church) is jettisoned to get a ring off, and the conspiracy crisis is entirely undermined by a farcical squabble over his presence. As the Duchess (Jonathan Hyde) emerges as never before as Richard's Judas, an obsequious hanger-on from the first scene, doing a quick volte-face when Bolingbroke comes to power, and then railing Bolingbroke in the heavily embossed line "loyal father of a treacherous son" of his own murky record. After which the final scene, played as a nightmare walk down Rurik's ramp, leaves the audience with the block on the way and finally arriving at the spectre of Richard's corpse, follows with inexorable fatal logic.

Irving Wardle

### Paperbacks

*Auto da Fé* is still in print by Picador. It is relevant to note that one of his more thought-provoking passages is on inflation and on the word "million" for hyperinflation in Weimar Germany, which meant that "a million" became something ordinary, everyday, even valueless. Canetti thinks that even the Nazis would not have thought so amorally about the destruction of millions of Slavs or Jews. To devalue words is also, Orwellianly, to devalue lives.

The 1973 original Penguin on my shelves cost 60p. This costs nearly five times as much. Not Weimar, but not a world of stable values, either.

Paul Barker

### Violence

Rough Justice, the extraordinary truth about Charles Richardson and his gang, by Robert Parker (Fontana £1.95)

The career of Charles Richardson is put into a nutshell by one of his associates, recalling one of the meetings with the gang administered to some victims. "It was just one of those

things," he said simply. "They took a liberty. We got the hump. They got a whack." The elements of the story are all there: the private language and code of the underworld, the absence of repentance, and the casual acceptance of savage violence. Fifteen years after the Richardson empire was at its height, the truth does not turn out to be all that extraordinary and looks much the same as it did during the lurid trial.

Not precisely the same, however. The former Times journalist Robert Parker embarked on this story by interviewing Richardson when he was on the run from the prison system which has now reclaimed him; Richardson wanted to show that he had been framed. Parker has unearthed new twists to the story - Richardson purloined anti-apartheid organizations for the South African Bureau of State Security - and has clarified that not every word of evidence at the trial may have been the perfect truth. But he is unequivocal: "In the end, justice was done."

Richardson emerges from this dense and complex narrative as a strange combination of street-smart and naïve. Like other torturers before him, he was practising the extreme form of trying to

George Brock

## To read is to argue

Crowds and Power, by Elias Canetti (Penguin, £2.95)

If you like Sir Thomas Browne's *Urn Burial* or Sir James Frazer's *The Golden Bough*, then you will like Canetti's erudite musings on the way politics and individual and masses interact - often to produce violence and terror. That is his theme; but, like Browne or Frazer, he proceeds by amazing examples and these are what persuade and give the book its attraction.

He begins with an acute account of how crowds "work": how individuals overcome their usual fear of being pushed about, and enjoy their immersion in a lack of individual responsibility. But by the time we reach the end, more than 500 pages later, Canetti fades us out on an "epilogue", rather than a conclusion.

This does not matter. Indeed, it is a book which I at least tend to read like a magazine - not so much in its modern sense as in its

original one, of a storehouse. I dip into learned expositions of how an Indian medieval profligate ruled his courtiers, or how the palace pastimes of rotting corpses, or I suddenly see how right it is to make the conductor of a symphony orchestra as the embodiment of a Führer.

But then I wonder how the standing position of the all-powerful conductor fits in with Canetti's exposition, in another chapter, of the all-powerful throne-like imagery of sitting, while others stand. To read Canetti is to argue with him.

Canetti's life makes him sound like someone invented by Borges (or, in this case, by Nobel prize committee, who have just awarded him the literature accolade for 1981). He has lived in more countries, it seems, than he has written books; and, born in Bulgaria of Spanish-Jewish parents, he began life speaking medieval Spanish. Certainly he shares Borges's love of learning, and his love of living generalisation behind detailed particularity. Few of the best sociologists have been paid-up academics, specifically working in that discipline. Canetti rubs in the point again.

Penguin have rushed out this reprint with commendable speed because of the Nobel Prize. (Canetti's novel,

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# South Africa: promises without progress

Johannesburg. The South African Prime Minister, Mr. P. W. Botha, sits down today with the country's business leaders for a post-mortem on the hopes of the past two years.

The Cape Town meeting will be a tense and gloomy session. The two sides last met at the Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg, in November 1979, when they shared optimism about reform as at its height. Mr. Botha's businessmen, led by Mr. Harry Oppenheimer of the Anglo-American Corporation, formed a united front with the white, civil service and working class.

That year Mr. Botha had marked his succession of the late Mr. John Vorster with a series of speeches which convinced many people at home and abroad that he was bent on far-reaching reform of the apartheid system. He told business leaders that they must "adapt or die" and that apartheid was a "recipe for permanent conflict" and that reform was the only alternative to revolution. Today, Mr. Botha will face charges that he has retreated from his earlier promises, made by men who are confused about government policy and the growing militancy of the black labour force.

The reformist rhetoric of Mr. Botha and his Verligte (enlightened) lieutenants, it is now clear, always promised a great deal more than they were able, or probably ever intended, to deliver. The sanctity of the structural core of "grand

apartheid" — the balkanization of South Africa into semi-independent black tribal homelands in and around a vast white heartland where blacks would be allowed entry only to satisfy the needs of the white economy — was never in question.

Their aim was rather to shore up this crumbling edifice by accommodating some pressing demographic and economic facts of life. Among these are that by the year 2020, the 4.5 million whites will have risen only to 5.3 million, and will have dropped from 18 per cent to 11 per cent of the total population. Blacks will number 37 million, against 20 million today, rising from 72 per cent to 78 per cent of the total, and more than 80 per cent will be under the age of 25.

It has been calculated that an average economic growth rate of 5 per cent a year, which would not be especially high by historical South African standards, would generate a demand for six million skilled workers by the end of the century, of which the whites would be able to provide no more than a third. To the Verligtes this meant that skilled jobs had to be opened to blacks and much more money spent on black education and training.

The corollary, it was argued, of ceasing to treat blacks as an almost inexhaustible reservoir of cheap, barely-literate labour was that they had also to be given a stake in the future of South Africa's political and economic system. Otherwise the Government would be faced with an estranged, and expanding, skilled black workforce, commanding a strategic position in the economy and a growing ability to disrupt the

political and social order through strikes, consumer boycotts and industrial sabotage.

The plan for reform that began to emerge still reflected traditional Verwoerdian precepts in seeing the largely rural tribal homelands as the chief answer to black political aspirations. It did not dispute the influx of blacks to the towns had to be strictly controlled, but accepted that a large proportion of the black population would have to be accommodated as a permanent presence in "white" areas.

Black urbanization, it was said, would be controlled only by the availability of jobs and housing. The quality of life for urban blacks and their families would be improved, they would be permitted to set up businesses, to take out 99-year leases on their houses, and to move more easily from one job to another, petty "hurdle" discrimination in use of public amenities would cease, and black trade union rights would be recognized.

By these means, it was hoped, a black middle class and labour aristocracy would gradually emerge with a vested interest in political and economic stability. Soweto it was suggested, might become a self-governing black city state, possibly with the right to send representatives to a central government. At the same time, South Africa's 800,000 Indians and 2.5 million mixed-race coloureds were to be drawn into sharing some sort of parliamentary structure with the whites.

For its part, big business, riding a free enterprise boom stimulated by the removal of



South African children near Capetown. High hopes for reform now seem to have disappeared along with their shanty town home, now destroyed by police.

government controls, would help finance these reforms and channel investment into regional development aimed at alleviating the poverty of the homelands and reducing the flow of Africans to the cities. Encouraged by this reformist climate, many people undoubtedly read much more into the Government's intentions than they ever contained.

Many Liberals, for example, pin their hopes on the controversial figure of Chief Buthe, leader of the KwaZulu Homeland, who is hated alike by white

hardliners and black militants in the African National Congress for his willingness to work for reform through apartheid institutions while denouncing apartheid as a system. A commission set up by Chief Buthe is expected in the next few weeks to recommend the merger of KwaZulu with the white-run province of Natal in a multi-racial regional federation enjoying devolved powers.

Such schemes might not have seemed Utopian two years ago, but now the reformist impetus is running into the sand. The only real movement

has been in the recognition of black trade unions, partial ending of job reservation, and limited improvements in the lot of urban Africans. Many people believe the stuffing began to go out of Mr. Botha's reforming zeal after the collapse of the "Rhodesia settlement" in Zimbabwe and the victory of Mr. Mugabe.

That strengthened the white bitter-enders in South Africa in their rejection of the assumption implicit in much liberal argument that timely concessions will persuade blacks to accept a "half-way house" short of unfettered majority rule. For them it is a case not of "adapt or die" but "adapt and die more quickly". Better, they say, to try to hold the line rigidly where it is. At the same time, blacks, coloureds and Indians have all so far spurned the Government's cautious overtures.

The second significant event was Mr. Botha's decision to call a general election two years early last April, presumably hoping for a "reformed" mandate for reform. The Liberal PFF gained seats, indicating the reformist enthusiasm of English-speaking South Africans, but the near-fascist Herstigte Nasionale Party also gained its vote (though without winning a single seat owing to the vagaries of the constituency system). This greatly unnerved the Government by raising the old bogey of a split in Afrikaner realigning.

A charitable view is that Mr. Botha is playing for time on the internal reforms while he gets the white hardliners at his back to swallow the bitter pill of the loss of Namibia (South West Africa). That could be read into some temporizing remarks he made at last week's congress of the Transvaal National Party, where he was challenged to state his intentions on his future role in the new, powerful, ultra-Conservative leader, Dr. Andries Treurnicht. But his audience today will need some persuading that the reforms are still on course.

Michael Hornsby

Ronald Butt

## Sir Keith takes a blind swipe

In politics as in more fundamental matters, it is sometimes a good idea to go in search of first principles. At a moment when the Government is on the brink of deciding to cut drastically its support for the maintenance of university students, which will add to the financial anxieties of the universities, as well as of the students themselves, it is time to ask the simple question: what moral obligation does the state have to support students who are accepted for university?

The state has accepted an open-ended commitment to pay the tuition fees of all students who secure a university place, the universities having the unfettered right to determine whom they will offer university places to. The local authorities also pay a basic maintenance grant to all such students, irrespective of parents' means, supplemented by additional grants to students after a very close assessment of parents' incomes. This means that the state is committed to a maximum which is the national amount a student is deemed to need to live at university, calculated according to the cost of living in the area, and whether he does or does not live at home.

If the national maximum is £1,800 and a total grant is made of £1,000, the student's parents are expected to make up the balance, thus we come to the simple question: what is the arrangement, which is that a parent who may have financial problems of which the means-testing criteria take no account, finds himself morally obliged to pay a large annual sum to maintain another child who is usually aged 18 or above, can vote or marry, and over whom the parent has no legal control, even the universities no longer standing in loco parentis. This obligation only exists when the student is in a not inconsiderable number of cases parents already refuse to pay all or some of the due amount, either because they cannot or will not. Quite a high proportion of students therefore live on means below the national level which the state prescribes.

The Government, however, having already overshot its spending targets for the coming financial year is desperate for more economies to contain the level of public borrowing, and therefore inflation, and seeks to reduce the amount of money being spent on university education.

The Department of Education is quite sure that the schools can bear no more economies and the new Education Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph, has decided that further cuts must be at the expense of the universities. His proposal is that the basic grant which comes to all students, irrespective of parents' means, should be ended, and that the means-tested element should be scaled down with the percentage contribution substantially increased. This is the proposition, now with the Treasury, on which the Cabinet will eventually have to decide. It would have a great impact on students personally, and would likely lead to a significant decline in their number since there are bound to be cases where parents cannot or will not find the extra.

There are about 500,000 people in higher education in Britain and if we add the parents, it means that something approaching a million and a half could be directly affected by the changes. That is quite a large number of people. Yet on the other side of the

argument, Britain runs a more generous system of student maintenance than almost anywhere else in the world. If it is a serious question what financial obligations parents should have for children of voting age, it is also a serious question how far the majority of voting taxpayers should be expected to provide for the living standards of students who can hope for a higher standard of living eventually than most of those who indirectly support them.

Of course, we have a social obligation to educate at university the ablest young people who lack financial means, but abroad they are generally dealt with through competitive scholarships, in much the same way as they were once catered for by county and state scholarships here. Now the commitment is to sustain any student for whom universities, with their vested interest in their own growth, can find a place.

Sir Keith Joseph is an intelligent man, but it is that in a beneficent world, the engine of human progress would be the market principle of self-interest, self-help and money-making which would create the wealth needed to make available the funds for the charitable support of those in genuine need of help. It is a radical approach which he seldom practises as fervently as he preaches it.

A year ago, Dr. Rhodes Boyson, with the approval of the then Education Secretary, Mr. Mark Carlisle, produced a scheme which, after providing for a basic grant, would have made up the balance of students' maintenance by government-backed loans. (The state would still have paid for all tuition.) There was nothing barbaric about it. It was modelled on the Swiss system, if it can be argued that such loans start the student off with a debt, like a mortgage, is nowadays quickly diminished by inflation.

More pertinent is the fact that a large system would enable students determined to go to university to borrow and do so. They would not be dependent on the goodwill of state or parents, which is too easily withdrawn at short notice or withheld altogether.

It would be better to have recourse to a loan than to be dependent on a system to which Sir Keith Joseph can take an axe, depriving many students of the chance to go to university at all.

The Government risks alienating many of its own supporters (including those in the articulate university lobby) which is demonstrating against the cuts generally at the expense of Sir Keith's plan.

Once again he has shown his lack of political imagination and a characteristic willingness to accept bureaucratic solutions. The Treasury does not like the loans system because, although in the long run, it would save money, it would cost more immediately. Instead of attempting a radical reappraisal of a system which carries an open-ended commitment on the nation can no longer afford, and which is not even very just, Sir Keith proposes an expedient which will look mean-minded and make enemies the Government cannot afford. We should be thinking much more fundamentally about how we view the future of universities, their courses and their finance. This kind of expedient can only do damage. It is not too late for the Cabinet to instruct Sir Keith to think again.

## Should PMT be a woman's all-purpose excuse?

Two women who killed or threatened to kill have this week walked free from British courts after pleading that they acted "out of character" because of pre-menstrual tension.

The cases of Miss Sandie Smith and Mrs Christine English also set to cause controversy among doctors and lawyers, not to mention feminists and laypeople of both sexes. Beyond the medical and legal technicalities lies the fundamental question: can a woman's natural, monthly cycle be commonly accepted as diminishing her responsibility for crimes from traffic offences to murder?

The courts have been faced for some years by women defendants who have explained or excused their crimes by reference to pre-menstrual tension. But judges have not yet developed a coherent or uniform response.

The issue has most often been raised in cases of spousal violence, where the accused woman has attributed her uncharacteristic behaviour to PMT. But this week's cases have brought it to the fore as a factor in much graver criminal charges.

Mrs English was conditionally discharged from Norwich Crown Court on Tuesday after she had admitted killing her lover by turning him down in her car. Her plea of guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility was accepted after she had explained that she had had a row when her lover said he had arranged to meet another woman. She followed him in her car and drove it at him, stepping on the accelerator. Mr Justice Purchas said he was satisfied she had committed the offence in "wholly exceptional circumstances".

On Monday Miss Smith, a 29-year-old barmaid, was put on probation for threatening to kill a policeman while carrying a knife. Her case was doubly interesting because she was already on probation for stabbing to death another barmaid, again during a period of pre-menstrual tension. Miss Smith had nearly 30 previous convictions for offences ranging from arson and assault to throwing bricks through windows, and had "dozens of times" tried to take her own life — again, the incidents coinciding with her pre-menstrual tension.

"My days of violence were caused by an illness which became a life hell — and hell for a lot of other innocent people," she said in court. Her defence counsel said that, without daily injections of a hormone drug, progesterone, Miss Smith became a raging animal each month. The Recorder of London, Mr James Miskin, QC, made a

new probation order after hearing that the drug normally kept her "sane and benign".

Both judges accepted that the two women — on two separate occasions, in the case of Miss Smith — committed their offences under "exceptional conditions" caused by PMT, which did not warrant imprisonment. But the courts have not gone as far as treating PMT as a defence in the sense that the defendant did not know what she was doing, and therefore ought to be acquitted altogether. They have accepted PMT only as an extenuating factor.

In its extreme form, however, it appears that PMT can affect a woman so much that she is not responsible for her actions at all, and would not realize she was doing wrong. This raises far wider legal questions on the nature of criminal intent, which courts will undoubtedly be faced with soon.

It is not, however, thought that the two cases this week, and Miss Smith's last year, will open the floodgates to women defendants claiming PMT as a reason for their crimes. The medical evidence would have to be convincing that the condition was strong enough to have resulted in reducing her responsibility for her actions. Many women, of course, suffer some degree of PMT, and this can be a source of discomfort and light for a day or two.

Miss Smith, both this week and last year, was placed on probation on condition that she take injections of the drug progesterone. A similar order was also made last year on a baller student convicted of attempted arson.

Both women showed significant improvement in their condition just before their periods, and Miss Smith only committed her later crime when, because of an error, she did not receive the drug.

For the time being, therefore, judges can be expected to regard PMT seriously, and pass sentences accordingly with or without a condition of treatment. They are not yet prepared to consider that in every case PMT should completely negate criminal intent, thus resulting in acquittal.

Despite 50 years' research the basic facts about pre-menstrual tension are still disputed, its symptoms remain controversial and there is no agreement on treatment. Some doctors give progesterone, others give diuretic drugs to increase urine flow, others suppress the cycle by continuous treatment with oral contraceptives.

PMT was first recognized by an American physician named R. T. Frank who described women in the days just before menstruation developing "a condition of

describable tension, and a desire to find relief by foolish actions difficult to restrain."

This was accompanied by swelling of the face and feet. All the symptoms were relieved when menstrual bleeding began.

Here in Britain the syndrome is closely associated with the name of Dr Katharina Dalton, a defence witness in the English case this week who first published (with the endocrinologist Dr Rayman) a paper describing the syndrome in detail as long ago as 1953. She believes that around four out of every 10 women suffer distressing symptoms in the last week of their menstrual cycle, and that these include mood swings, physical disturbances. The most striking physical feature, she says, is accumulation of water in the body.

The underlying cause is said to be an imbalance between the hormones oestrogen and progesterone, whose fluctuations determine the normal menstrual cycle.



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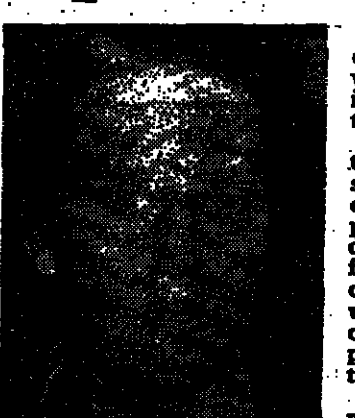
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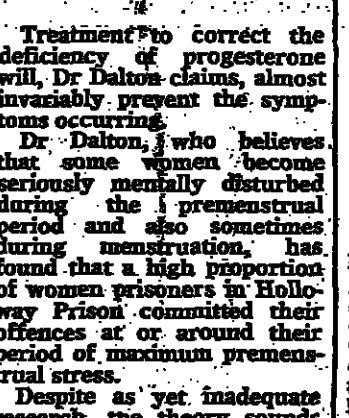
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## For £5 you could play Santa to a needy child this Christmas.

3 year old Timmy lives with his mother Doreen and Baby sister Kim. Last Christmas, just before Kim was born, Timmy's father walked out and didn't come back.

Doreen was due to go into hospital and there was no-one else to take care of Timmy. So he came to us. We filled his stockings and took care of him until Doreen was well enough to have him home again. And we still give help and support to Doreen and the children when ever they need us.

All year round Barnardo's bring love and security to thousands of needy children through our day care centres, schools for the handicapped and highly specialized residential homes. The care of our children costs a great deal of money.

Some of them — like Timmy — are unable to spend Christmas at home. Won't you help us to play Santa for them this Christmas?

£5 will buy a cuddly teddy, a pretty little doll or a toy train. Or it will fill a Christmas stocking with lots of little presents. £10 will fill stockings for two needy children.

And just think what £100 will do!

Everything you send helps. And it helps even more if you covenant to pay regularly. That way we can claim back tax, so every £1 you give us is worth £1.43. (Details of Deeds of Covenant will be sent on request.)

Please send what you can today to me, Nicholas Lowe, Appeals Director, Room 227, Dr Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Ilford, Essex IG2 1QG.

**Dr Barnardo's**

The true identities of our children are not revealed, so as to avoid disclosing publicity.

## How Arab money relieved a Heselrine headache

Recent suggestions that Arab influence on the English property market is declining appear to have been premature. As told that Reverend Michael Heselrine, one of the nation's finest Georgian mansions, has been sold to Abdul al-Ghazzi, a bachelor in his 30s, who is better known in Park Lane than the wilds of East Angles. But his purchase of the hall for £725,000, relieves Environment Secretary Michael Heseltine of a headache he has nursed for nearly two years.

Reverend Heselrine, owned by the Vane family for two centuries, was reluctantly bought by the Treasury-financed National Heritage Memorial Fund for £300,000 in 1970. Since the end of last year it has been closed to visitors after the agreement by the National Trust, managed on behalf of the Department of the Environment came to an end. Meanwhile the Treasury wants its money back and Heselrine has insisted the 24-bedroom hall, built by Sir Robert Taylor in the English Palladian style, be reopened to the public.

The new owner has agreed to allow public access to the hall on at least 30 days a year and is to rehabilitate the building. He will also display furniture designed for the hall by James Wyatt in the 1780s — a condition of the sale. Finally, the gardens laid down by Capability Brown in 500 acres of parkland, will be restored.

## Social conscience

After months of agonizing over her future role in life Blanca Jagger appears to be on the verge of forsaking the social whirlpool of New York in order to devote

## THE TIMES DIARY

In the wake, or should I say trail, of our recent tale about "super-small", the mollusc that suddenly came to life after more than three years hibernating as a seaside ornament on the bedroom dressing table of a retired Nottinghamshire miner — I have some news — even more startling revelations.

Dr Peter Morden, senior scientific officer in the zoological department of the British Museum, and an expert on non-marine molluscs (land and fresh water snails), tells me of the even more extraordinary achievement of a formidable Egyptian snail, *Eremina desertorum*. Apparently in the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History of*

1850, sandwiched between worthy letters on the breathing habits of spiders and skin shedding in toads, is a short note entitled "Long-suspended vitality of a snail".

This is an account of how in 1846 the British Museum received two specimens of this desert snail which, according to the then standard curatorial practice were placed in a small tablet and placed in a collections drawer.

Four years later in March 1850 one of the museum staff suspecting that one of the shells might still be occupied, removed it from the tablet and placed it in some tepid water. Much to his surprise and delight it moved.

This hardy little creature apparently lived happily for a further two years after its resurrection.

government-level delegation to the Honduran to see if the country was a safe haven for refugees where she claims displaced Salvadoreans are kept like prisoners in fear of their lives.

Sheltering from the drizzle in a Fifth Avenue doorway, Blanca, 34, told my observer in New York: "People are just not aware of what is going on in these places. Women and children are suffering every day."

Blanca, who studied political science in France, says she is considering spending more time in her native Nicaragua. It was as a result of the internecine strife there that her social conscience was swollen two years ago.

The mysterious, dark-haired daughter of a Nicaraguan businessman has not entirely cast aside her former life however. She added that she is looking forward to seeing the Rolling Stones Concert at Madison Square Garden tomorrow.

Some consternation yesterday when the combined ranks of Government ministers, Sir Keith Joseph, Mr William Waldegrave, Department of Education and Science officials (Sir James Hamilton, permanent secretary and others) and a clutch of MPs of various hues (the Commons Select Committee on Education) could not remember what the Robbins principle was.

Robbins is, of course, to higher education what Bevan was to the Welfare State. His principle is that courses of higher education should be available for all those who are qualified by ability and attainment to pursue them. And this has been the guiding force behind the expansion of higher education.

So when the new secretary of state for education was asked by the select committee whether the



## Robbins redefined

Government's education cuts meant that Robbins was dead (they urging him to say it, he desperately trying not to) — Joseph (who served in the Government which originally welcomed the Robbins report) found himself in the embarrassing position of not being able to recall its terms precisely. His mission of official handout to purpose, nor did the MPs' debate after some pedantic debate about phraseology which was certainly not Robbins, Sir Keith had to say he found the principle vague.

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## Matched

Princess Mary Obolensky, daughter of the Russian emigré Prince Alexis, has married Antony Underwood at St James Church, Piccadilly during a service highlighted by Sir John Mills' reading of the lesson. The church was packed with hundreds of the St James Club, exclusive haunt of the theatrical world, of which Underwood is general manager and Princess Mary a member of the executive committee, together with Argyle, Michael Caine, Liza Minnelli, Roger Moore and Gregory Peck.

The Princess, 35, once a friend of Rex Harrison, is renowned for her efficient organization of backgammon tournaments in Monte Carlo. But much of the conversation at the reception reflected the relief of her friends that Princess Mary has found not only the man of her dreams but also a husband of her own. The two who met a year ago at the launch of the club, are over 6ft tall.

Michael Hornsby





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## THE TIGER'S SMILE

The Opposition's decision to mobilize Mr Benn's oratorical skills during Tuesday's North Sea oil debate was always a gamble. His sights and his definition of the enemy are rarely in line with those of his senior colleagues. Not surprisingly and not for the first time he wreaked more damage upon his own side than upon the Government benches opposite.

His personal commitment to re-nationalize without compensation was directly contrary to the position agreed in Shadow Cabinet and left Labour's official spokesman, Mr Merlyn Rees, who apparently cleared his own speech with Mr Benn, intolerably embarrassed. It was also technically contrary to Party policy as determined by overwhelming vote at this year's Brighton Conference.

Remembering that Mr Benn's left wing friends operate a hit list of Labour MPs who should be punished for offending the sanctity of Conference decisions, his behaviour carries a whiff of hubbub. However it should be stated in his defence that the Conference decision in question was even more ambiguous than usual: on a long composite motion the delegates' observations were apparently more to do with proposals for

the financial sector than with North Sea oil.

What is still unquestionable is that Mr Benn, when challenged from the Government bench, told the Commons and the nation that his position was that of the Labour Party, with no qualifications for the various shades and ambiguities within its policy-making process. In so doing he left his fellow spokesmen looking ridiculous, his leader humiliated, and himself looking less than trustworthy to conduct an office of public responsibility.

Equally serious is the bald question of principle at issue in the North Sea. We have already expressed our doubts about the wisdom of privatization there, agreeing with some of Mr Benn's better arguments. But there is no doubt about the Government's right and duty to sell at a fair price. Renationalization by a Labour Government without adequate compensation, let alone without any compensation at all, is simply wrong. It is the theft of legitimately held property. Mr Benn's proposals which may become unqualified Labour policy once his Home Policy Committee has put its recommendations to the NEC and another Conference, amounts to such a theft.

Among its victims would be millions of trade unionists who are members of pension funds. Even earlier sufferers will be the unemployed who are deprived of job opportunities as foreign investors are frightened away by these threats of confiscation.

But most immediately the problem rests with Mr Michael Foot. He personally promoted Mr Benn to his role in this debate. In answer to representations from moderate MPs about appeasement of the far Left, he has explained his strategy for taming Mr Benn by involving him in every aspect of the Party leadership. He has brought the tiger into the kitchen. Well, it has promptly eaten one of the cooks.

Mr Foot reacted firmly yesterday. He supported Mr Rees on the specific oil renationalization and then warned Mr Benn that without assurances of better behaviour he would not support him in the Shadow Cabinet elections. But on past evidence it is not clear what Mr Benn's assurances are worth or why Mr Foot should vote for him anyway. Unless Mr Foot recognizes his real enemies and more vigorously supports his true friends he himself may soon be on the tiger's menu.

## Trotskyites in the Labour Party

From Mr Alan Williams, MP for Swansea, West (Labour)

Sir, The refusal even to investigate Trotskyite infiltration of the party means that time is running out for Labour. Important gains by the "moderates" at annual conference will be dissipated unless the parliamentary party takes a strong stand in the current "shadow cabinet" elections.

Survival of the party is now the issue. MPs who have been demanding that they should have the freedom to use their personal judgement must now have the courage to do so. I suggest to my parliamentary colleagues that in casting their votes on this occasion they can help the survival of the party by distinguishing, not between left and right, but between those who favour keeping the Trotskyites within the party and those who do not.

The shadow cabinet should represent a cross-section of the policy views within the PLP. But we should not accept anyone on our parliamentary committee who would compromise with the erosive plotting of the anti-democratic Trotskyite infiltrators. They are carrying waiting to feed on the body of the democratic Labour Party. They hope to cheat their way to power under Labour's banners.

Of course, as Michael Foot says, the Labour movement must unite to fight the next election. But it must not be a false, transient unity designed to deceive the electorate. Labour Party unity will only be acceptable to the voters if, underlying that unity, is an unshakable commitment to British parliamentary democracy. The Trotskyites not only lack this commitment to our system, they are actively dedicated to its downfall. They should be made to stand before the electorate in their own clothes. The PLP should massively reject anyone who would lead them ours. Yours faithfully, ALAN WILLIAMS, MP for Swansea, West (Labour), November 10.

## Ireland's future

From Mr Jonathan Moore

Sir, David Morrison's article, "Why Dr Fitzgerald's crusade will not unite Ireland" (November 9), shows a complete lack of understanding of the significance of Ireland removing articles 2 and 3 from the Constitution. Mr Morrison argues that by the South ceasing to lay claim to the Six Counties the IRA will have the "impetus" removed from their movement. This presumes that the IRA derive their legitimacy from the 1937 Constitution, which is simply not true. Their legitimacy derives from the 1916 proclamation, made on the steps of the Post Office in Dublin.

The contents of the "Free State" Constitution will not change the attitude of the Provisionals one little bit. It will simply reinforce their conviction that the Dail is full of Quislings and not nationalists, and that they have fooled the Southern Irish people. No, the importance of the constitutional crusade lies not in its effect on the Republics, but on its effect on the Unionists. For decades, many Unionist politicians have opposed dialogue with Southern politicians on the grounds of the South's constitutional claim to the North. This claim has been seen, with much justification, as highly offensive and indicative of Southern wishes to coerce and dominate Northern Protestants. It was impossible for any trust to exist in such an atmosphere.

Without such constitutional threats existing, a genuine dialogue between North and South can ensue. Since Mr Morrison is only too aware that one million Protestants cannot be forced into a united Ireland against their will (this is the real meaning of the constitutional guarantee) the Union is not being threatened by any talks.

Progress in the island of Ireland can only come when the traditions come to understand each other. This can only come about through discussion. Garret Fitzgerald's initiative is a long overdue step in moving towards the final goal. He should thus be applauded for it. Yours faithfully, J. A. MOORE, University of York, Department of Politics, Heslington, York, November 9.

## Tale of two Escorts

From Mr P. L. J. Sparrow

Sir, In his letter to you (October 27) Mr Herman Rebhan, General Secretary, The International Metalworkers' Federation, stated that "Ford production schedules are always a function of market demands", and that the answer to the low output of Escorts from Halewood "lay in the fact that Ford became politically sensitised to imports of Escorts from its low-wage Spanish plant coupled with a sharp increase in United Kingdom demands".

As a main Ford dealer I write to you with regard to the all Escorts for this country are produced at Halewood, with the exception of the Escort Ghia, which is made in Germany; and, secondly, we in common with all other main Ford dealers have been desperately short of Escorts throughout the whole of 1981 and it is only now that production from Halewood is beginning to catch up with demand. Yours faithfully, PATRICK SPARROW, Managing Director, Knutsford Motors Ltd., Chester Way, Northwich, Cheshire.

## Rational approaches to disarmament

From Mr E. P. Thompson

Sir, You had this to say in a recent editorial (October 2): "The huge accumulations of weaponry which the two [blocks] brandish at each other are wholly out of proportion to any genuine conflict of interests. There is no serious competition for essential resources, or for territory that is truly vital to the security of either and the ideological fires have divided on both sides. In strictly objective terms a reasonable degree of accommodation should be easily attainable."

You went on to add that this endemic state of conflict is, like others in history, "essentially irrational" — but, none the less, perilous for that. This is close to my own perception. The problem, then, is to insert some rationality into the relations between the two blocks before it is too late.

I, and CND, wish to commence with nuclear disarmament because, in our view, nuclear weapons are both the prime instruments and the prime symbols of this dangerous irrationality. When Professor Michael Howard asks us, in his interesting letter of November 3, whether we should not also campaign to maintain a nuclear deterrent, the answer cannot be a simple yes or no. For he is leaving aside a third alternative, which is that initiatives in nuclear disarmament should be coupled with vigorous political initiatives, might lead directly on to measures of conventional disarmament also.

If we start to remove the worst symbols of unreason, this might be a first step towards courses of rational negotiation in general. And this cannot be helped forward if we exaggerate the supposed imbalance of conventional forces in Europe, or are immobilised by worst-case hypotheses as to a possible Soviet threat. I am proposing a better case, hypothesis, and I am also arguing that we must bend every effort to bring that better case about. Our civilisation is now in a desperate state of crisis, and there is no way out of this predicament which may not entail some risk. If we do succeed in pulling some of the foul nuclear embers down, and if there is then no corresponding reduction (whether nuclear or conventional) on the other side, then Mr Howard will be entitled to put his question again, and in earnest.

He may receive different answers from members of the peace movement — some (like myself) may accept the course of Sweden or Yugoslavia, with strong, but truly defensive establishments; others may argue for passive measures of alternative defence. I am not overwhelmed with embarrassment that we might not agree on a common answer. Our opponents, the advocates of "deterrence" and of nuclear

weaponry, are now offering as many answers as they have heads.

It is also important (and we acknowledge this) that our first acts of disarmament should meet with a response from the other side. To clear the way for more honest and open East-West communication between all genuine disarmers is as important as is opposition to particular weapons. Councillor Tony Kerpel (October 30) doubts whether any such dialogue is possible.

I had drafted a reply to Mr Kerpel when Mr Howard's more weighty letter intervened. I can only say, in a brief space, that this dialogue, despite all difficulties, is taking shape. The findings of the Washington conference of Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War have already been published as fully in the Soviet as in the Western press (details in the *New Scientist* October 31). President Ceausescu of Romania has directed an even-handed invitation to both the Soviet Union and the United States to remove nuclear weapons from Europe. At the recent congress of Solidarity the international spokesman, Mr Bogdan Lis, called explicitly for opposition to militarism, East and West.

Appeals are now being canvassed in both East and West Germany calling for measures to demilitarize both countries; one such appeal, drafted by Dr Robert Havemann, the East German physicist and civil rights supporter, takes the form of an open letter to Mr Brezhnev. Even our small *END Bulletin* is commencing published exchanges with Polish, Czech and Hungarian readers. Millions of East Germans will have seen West German television coverage of the great Bonn rally on October 10, at which a multitude of banners were raised calling for a nuclear-free Europe, East and West. Such causes are infectious and can cross frontiers.

At the Hyde Park demonstration on October 24 I called on my fellow demonstrators in Eastern Europe "to join hands in this common struggle — not only against Nato's modernization but also against their own." This was not a rhetorical flourish. It is our steady aim. The dialogue is difficult and must go through many channels. It is essential to survival. The obstacles which prevent it do not exist only over there, on the other side. They exist on this side also. One such obstacle is the kind of hostility towards any dialogue to which Mr Kerpel's letter gave expression. Yours faithfully, E. P. THOMPSON, Wick Episcopi, Upper Wick, Worcester, November 9.

## Parental attitudes to the handicapped

From Lord Hastings

Sir, Professor Mason (November 7) is right to draw attention to the highly unsatisfactory legal position remaining unresolved by the handling and outcome of Dr Arthur's case, and as a result it is probable that the Down's Children's Association, of which I am a member, is correct in believing that more children suffering from this disability will be allowed to die in the future.

What is so serious and depressing about this case is that attention has been concentrated on the likely death by natural causes of a mongol child in ways in which this can, if desired, be brought about. So far as I can ascertain nothing has been said during the case or in the press, or even in the penetrating television programme *Newsnight* (BBC 2, November 5) about the simple fact that adequate medical care and good nursing can ensure the survival of mongol children who do not suffer from multiple complications.

I know what I am speaking about because when my wife gave birth to a Down's child, the paediatrician painted the gloomiest of pictures as though the infant were a monster and utterly useless. Although these babies are notoriously reluctant to demand food or to suck, he forbade feeding by tube. The nursing sister disagreed and told my wife, who immediately countermanded the order, and got her gynaecologist to back her up. It is incredible to us that 13 years later paediatricians are still giving out-of-date and prejudicial advice to ignorant mothers in an emotional state of shock, instead of dwelling upon the qualities which are unique to mongols.

Our little Down's boy now enjoys riding, playing badminton, cricket, football and rugby in his own fashion (the more tumbles the better) and contrary to what we were told by officialdom he reads well and can write a legible letter. His marvellous sense of humour, infectious laughter and irresistible smile, coupled with a prodigious memory for people, places and past events, wins friends wherever he goes. His unswerving affection, utter trust, and infinitely forgiving nature, make a major contribution to family life and to his special (Shelling) school, where he can get through his children, more severely handicapped than himself in a way no normal person can.

Quite apart from the moral aspect of this whole problem (and I agree in principle with the views of Cardinal Hume expressed on television, although I am not a Roman Catholic) the purpose of this letter is, first, to ask physicians in general and paediatricians in particular to adopt a more positive attitude towards mongol children and, secondly, to help the future parents of these children to realise it is a privilege and a joy to assist them to develop their full potential. They will also discover that it is a rare experience of great value to these children and to any community which fully accept a Down's child as of equal human value. Yours faithfully, HASTINGS, House of Lords, November 9.

From Mrs Beatrice Sofaer

Sir, The dilemma facing the medical profession in making decisions such as that given publicity by the Dr Arthur case has been widely discussed, but the extreme difficulty of carrying them out has been given little attention. I may be in the position of having to withhold treatment according to the decision of others and must witness the progressive deterioration of life that results. This difficulty is made more acute in the known fact, in addition to the malformation itself, being an accident of birth, the decision to maintain or not to maintain life may depend on another accident, whether or not the baby has persons who are willing to accept the baby.

One can therefore envisage a situation where there might be two Down's syndrome babies in the same neonatal nursery, both similarly affected, but for whom nurses would be required to adopt conflicting ethical principles. It is a nurse's duty to instruct children to withhold treatment can be held responsible for a baby's death? If a nurse were to ignore instructions to withhold treatment and strove to maintain life, to whom would she be responsible if a baby failed to die? Yours sincerely, BEATRICE SOFAER, Nursing Research Unit, Department of Nursing Studies, University of Edinburgh, 12 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, November 9.

## Cable and Wireless shares sale

From Mr Frank McLaren

Sir, It is the prerogative of Parliament to decide, as trustee of the nation's assets, to acquire, to retain or dispose of publicly-owned companies as it sees fit. The Government is entitled to dispose of assets such as the recent 50 per cent sale of Cable and Wireless irrespective of whether its motives are economic or political.

The sale of Cable and Wireless shares has been acclaimed as a success and to the extent that the sale has been completed this is true, but there is one aspect of the sale which is nothing less than a national scandal. 133 million shares were disposed of at the price of £1.68 each, raising £224m. However, the market price appears to be settling at around 30p higher than the disposal price. The nation has been defrauded of 133m by the financial mismanagement of the Prime Minister and the Treasury, and this shortfall will have to be made up by the taxpayer.

There is no incontestable practical reason why the shares could not have been disposed of by tender like many gilt issues and the price paid would have been much closer to the real value of the shares. According to *The Times* reports were sold again on the first day of trading of the new issue, giving the City around an overnight profit of about £15m. Is this a coincidence at a time when the Conservative Party, whose financial traditions come from the City, is short of funds?

With future sales of public assets coming up, our members of Parliament have a duty to ensure that the nation is not short-changed again. Yours faithfully, FRANK McLAREN, 13 Shalbury Close, Sidcup, Kent, November 8.

## Pension tax

From Mr J. E. Moore

Sir, As an alternative to Professor Layard's "inflation tax", your correspondent, Peter Thurnham (October 22) suggests a tax on civil servants' inflation-proof pensions. Presumably this would be in addition to income tax and the many indirect taxes already paid by these in retirement. Mr Thurnham should realise that these pensions have been paid for with money which had a much higher value than it has now, and that to repay such contributions with present-day devalued currency would be dishonest, to say the least.

At the time that the superannuation payments were made they were quite adequate, from an actuarial point of view, to provide the pensions promised. Had not successive governments devalued the currency by continually increasing the money supply (that is, by printing it) there would be no need for index-linking. The connection between currency inflation and price increases is no longer questioned. I see no reason, therefore, in the suggestion that index-linked pensions should be burdened with an additional tax. It is perhaps also fair to point out that, had successive governments met their public spending requirements, in part by currency inflation, then Mr Thurnham's income tax would have been much higher all these years. Yours sincerely, J. E. MOORE, 10 Linchfield Way, Hampstead Garden Suburb, Finchley, NW11.

## Nicaragua prisoners

From the Nicaraguan Ambassador

Sir, With reference to your editorial of November 6, "A debatable Cuban domino", it must be stressed that the applications of the law against these persons are specific actions against specific individuals who have violated the Economic and Social Emergency Law.

In no way can this be construed as an attack on the Supreme Council of Private Enterprise as an organization nor against the normal activities, nor as an action against private enterprise in general, nor their right to function within the framework of the law, and even less as a departure from the overall approach to the mixed economy plan of the Nicaraguan Revolution. What these sentences show, above all, is that the revolutionary laws of Nicaragua do not envisage helping certain capitalists, and that, scheming, nor for that matter, those communists who acting outside the limits of the law will be applied to those who sabotage production, whether it be at international level or at local level. The Government is responsible for seeing that the economy does not deteriorate any further. Yours truly, FRANCISCO ESCOTO, Embassy of Nicaragua, 8 Gloucester Road, SW7.

## Point of precedence

From Mrs Judith Filkin-Hunt

Sir, Margaret Lane (November 7) should be reassured that the precedence of a first-born daughter is unlikely to be a problem for the Prince and Princess of Wales. Surely they must be proud to the secret that has enabled her Majesty the Queen, their Royal Highnesses Princess Anne and Princess Margaret, the Duchesses of Gloucester and Kent, Princess Alexandra and Princess Michael of Kent to produce a first-born son followed by a daughter. Yours faithfully, JUDITH FILKIN-HUNT, 70 Park Hall Road, NZ.

## HALF WAY TO THE LIVINGSTONE HOG

A few unnecessary rhetorical flourishes made the judgments of the Court of Appeal in the London fares case sound more political than they are. The court had three reasons for knocking down the new fares structure and the consequent supplementary rate. First it construed the "governing clause of the Transport (London) Act of 1969, which gave the GLC its responsibility for the transport system, in such a way as to exclude the power to order a large general cut in fares leading to an equally large operating deficit. The council's statutory duty is to "promote the provision of integrated, efficient and economic transport facilities and services for Greater London". *Economic*, according to the court, means businesslike or run on business lines; it does not embrace the deliberate diminution of already inadequate revenue. Second, the court found irregularities in the procedures used by the GLC to cause the London Transport Executive to make the fare cuts. Third, the court found the council in breach of its "fiduciary duty" to the ratepayers. This concept, analogous to the duty of a trustee, is well established in case law. It was applied in similar circumstances in 1954 when Birmingham Corporation's scheme of free bus travel for certain sorts of elderly passengers was successfully challenged, and found illegal, in the absence of any clear statutory authority "on the ground that, to put the matter bluntly, it would amount to the making of a gift or present in money's worth to a particular section of the local community at the expense of the general body of ratepayers." What was there found to be unlawful was soon made lawful by legislation.

The only things a local council may do are the things it is expressly authorized to do. It is a creature of statute with no inherent powers of its own. Lord Denning's disparaging remarks about party manifestos in local government, though tactless, are correct. A manifesto pledge, even if dignified by the election result as a mandate, is a nullity if the councillors lack the statutory authority to put it into effect. The question remains, and it is one the House of Lords will have to decide, has the Court of Appeal construed the 1969 Act too narrowly? Judges may not read *Hansard* but the rest of us may. When the Minister of Transport, then Mr Richard Marsh, moved the second reading of the Bill in the Commons he spoke of the role of the GLC in relation to the Transport Executive. He said the Bill gave the council the right to prescribe the policy lines to be followed and to take financial responsibility for its decisions.

This is very important, because if the council wishes the executive to do something that will cause it to fall short of its financial targets, it will itself have to take financial responsibility for it. The council might wish, for example, the executive to run a series of services at a loss for social or planning reasons. It might wish to keep fares down at a time when costs are rising and there is no scope for economies. It is free to do so. But it has to bear the cost.

That does not go the whole Livingstone hog, but it points in his direction. Another more general reason for placing a wider construction on the Act is that then in 1969, and even more today, the general subsidizing of fares was and is an orthodox policy option for urban transport systems. There is

much to be said for it, provided it is arranged in a manner best calculated to stimulate use of public transport and a way that does not stimulate or perpetuate operational inefficiency. The object of the subsidy is not, as the courts quaintly suppose, philanthropy; it is to encourage optimum use of public transport, create the effective demand to justify expansion and improvement of services, and relieve the road congestion caused by preference for the alternative of one's own car. A modern public transport Act deserves to be given the benefit of any doubt about its compatibility with modern ideas about running a public transport system.

If the House of Lords is unable to take the more indulgent view of the Act it will not be tragedy. There will be a clear and early need for new legislation, and that would provide an opportunity to reconsider the GLC's role. Its record of a decade's responsibility for London transport is not a success, irrespective of party control. The system has noticeably deteriorated. It has been a victim of party politics. It is hampered by separated responsibility for the railway commuter services. Rates levied on domestic and commercial properties are much too narrow a base for a policy of systematic subsidy. The principle of regional resources for regional subsidies is a good one, but when the only regional resources made available is the already overburdened rating system good principle turns into bad practice. This, like much else at present, points to the need for radical reform of the financial resources of local government and of its accountability to its electors.

Progress in the island of Ireland can only come when the traditions come to understand each other. This can only come about through discussion. Garret Fitzgerald's initiative is a long overdue step in moving towards the final goal. He should thus be applauded for it. Yours faithfully, J. A. MOORE, University of York, Department of Politics, Heslington, York, November 9.

seem to have got things the wrong way round." But Dr Owen is a little different from Dr Strabismus. He had arrived without eggs or tomatoes. His advance into the audience was merely to deprive the tomato thrower of his weapons, a unilateral disarmament measure of which the howling Left ought surely to approve. The real question is not the robustly eccentric behaviour of the good doctor of our own times, but the defence offered by the students' union and others. Only a minority, it is said, were throwing tomatoes. Why then, Dr Strabismus might ponder, did the other 499 let them do it?

## DR OWEN (WHOM GOD PRESERVE)

Eggs, flour, water and paint have long been the stuff of dialectics at Sussex University. The list of famous speakers who have been given the treatment would be longer than it is, and it is long enough, if it were not that the conduct of the students' union has discouraged acceptance of their invitations. The students, it must be fairly said, have acquired a reputation for impartiality: there are eggs and flour for all political hues. On Tuesday night it was the turn of David Owen who arrived to find the platform "occupied" and was imprudent enough to give an exposition on battlefield nuclear weapons which was so con-

clusively taxing on the Sussex intellects that it had to be answered by one tomato, then a second and a third. He advanced on the tomato thrower who ran away.

It will be argued that Dr Owen showed a serious misunderstanding of the constitutional convention at Sussex. The only possible precedent is the case of Dr Strabismus (whom God preserve) of Utrecht who arrived to speak to a crowd and, after a few moments of oratory, proceeded to pelt the audience with rotten eggs. His normally reliable biographer J. B. Moston records that as he was led away he remarked, "Oh dear, it

all of which are essential to victory at the polls. In return for such formidable benefits those elected in the party's name incur implicit obligations. Rank-and-file party members tagging the streets on their behalf are entitled to expect that those lucky enough to obtain the party's nomination will, if elected, do their utmost to further the interests of the party and to advance the causes that the party holds dear.

No doubt circumstances may arise where MPs feel that in all conscience, they cannot honour their obligations to party. They may grow apart from their party or they may come to feel that their party has grown apart from them. One can readily understand how this may happen, but surely

## Obligations and SDP

From Dr David Mervin

Sir, There is surely more than a little justification for Mr Foot's suggestion that Dr Owen and his SDP colleagues should resign from the House of Commons.

The bestowal of a party nomination carries with it both benefits and obligations. The most obvious benefit is that a party label is virtually indispensable to electoral success. Independent candidates are almost always doomed to failure from the beginning, whereas major party candidates benefit enormously from the resources of a party.

Parties possess money, expertise, organisational facilities, armies of volunteer workers and traditions of loyalty and support,





# COURT CIRCULAR

The Duchess of Kent this afternoon visited the London Art Educational School at Golden Lane House, Barbican.

Mrs. Alan Henderson was in attendance.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**

November 11: The Duchess of Gloucester was present this evening at a Concert given for the Royal Association in aid of the Royal St. James' and St. John's Smith Square, London.

Mrs. Euan McCorquodale was in attendance.

Memorial services for Lord Boyle of Bandonville will be held on Tuesday, November 17, at St. Margaret's, Westminster at noon, and on Monday, November 23, at Leeds Parish Church at noon.

A memorial service for Mrs. Anne Stuenkel will be held on November 20, at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, at 11.30 a.m.

A memorial service for Professor Robert McKenzie will be held at the Church of Christ, The King, 100 St. Saviour, London, W.C1, on Monday, December 7, 1981, at 11 a.m.

Anne, Countess of Rosse deeply regretted being unable to attend the memorial meeting for Mr. A. St. John, at St. John's, Smith Square, SW1.

Sir Charles Johnston represented the Order of St. Michael and St. George at the memorial service for Viscountess de la Warr on Tuesday 11th November at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

**Mrs Margaret Thatcher** **President of: Rehabilitation**  
charter is a statement of f

**A son for**

Princess Maria-Teresa, wife of Prince Henri of Luxembourg, gave birth to a son yesterday, the Count of Grand Duke Jean and Grand Duchess Charlotte, the boy's grandparents, said in a statement in Luxembourg.

The boy was born by Caesarean section to prevent the possibility of subsequent complications and has been named Guillaume Jean Joseph Marie.

"Mother and child are in

**Luncheons.**

**HM Government.**

Lord Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon given at Carlton Gardens in honour of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister for

receiving a "Charter for the  
on. International, in Down  
the priorities for improving the

## a Princess

perfect health," the statement  
said. Prince Henri, eldest son of  
Grand Duke Jean and Grand  
Duchess Charlotte, was present  
during the birth.

One hundred and one cannon  
shots were fired in Luxembourg  
to announce the baby's birth.

Princess Marie-Eve is aged  
25 and was born in Cuba. Her  
husband is aged 26. They were  
married in Luxembourg on  
February 14.

## Dinners

Speaker

The Speaker gave a dinner in  
Speaker's House yesterday. The  
guests were:

Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, M.P. and Mrs.  
Armstrong, Mr. Robert Brown, M.P. and  
Mrs. Brown, Mr. George Cunningham,  
M.P. and Mrs. Cunningham, the Lord  
Mayor, Mr. and Mrs. Sir Cecil,

90s" from Dr Harry Fang, Farnham Street yesterday. The lives of disabled people.

**Offices to have new theatre**

By Christopher Warman


The Half Moon Theatre in the east end of London is to have a new home as a result of a property deal approved by the Greater London Council and Tower Hamlets Borough Council.

Part of the deal, which will enable the new Half Moon to be built at a cost of £1.2m, involves the provision of 123,000 sq ft of offices, as well as a public house and wine bar, in a new building and the rehabilitation of several listed buildings.

M Abel Gance, one of the earliest, and greatest, masters of the spectacular cinema, died in Paris on November 10. He was 92.

Born in Paris in October, 1889, he worked in his youth enthusiastically as a writer and actor, first on the stage and then in films, mainly to raise enough money to finance his studies. He soon became fascinated by the cinema for itself. His first directorial effort was *Le Masque d'Horreur* (1912), with the great tragedian Le Maxime Linder in the title role. World War that he really established himself as one of France's leading directors with a series of dramas and war films such as *Le Dernier Combat* (1915), *Les Fils des Ruines*, *Les Gai Matins*, *La Zone* de la Mort; *Maman Dolorosa* and most famously *J'accuse* (1919).

Gance has been called the Victor Hugo of the French cinema, and his films, like his books, followed the dictum to justify the title: a fantastic profusion of ideas, a taste for elaborate and intricate plots, a love of including as much great beauty and power with towering absurdities were always characteristic of his style. *J'accuse*, though made in collaboration with the army and navy, was put on a variety of circuits about a



like to dive a hundred feet or be tossed in the air by a cannon ball. The film score was by Arthur Honegger who had composed the score for *La Roue*.

The film's influence lingered, those who had seen it when originally shown did not forget it and among those were General de Gaulle and M. André Malraux, later to be French Minister of Culture. It has been said that they were among those who asked Gance to create a new version of his film which included sound and other technical innovations.

In November, 1980, a reconstructed version of Gance's

**Birthdays today..**



**The Rev. Dr Chad Varah,  
founder of the Samaritans,**

**Lord Peart**

Lord Peart was host at a luncheon reception given yesterday at the Reception of Lordship Diplomats in Safety Management were presented. Among the guests were Members of Parliament and members of the British Safety Council.

**Reception**

**Jordan Ambassador**

The Jordan Ambassador held a Reception of Lordship Diplomats in honour of Lieutenant-General Sharif Zeid Bin Shaker, Commander-in-Chief, of the Royal Jordanian Army.

The guests included members of the Diplomatic Corps, members of Her Majesty's Government and members of the House of Commons. Members of both Houses of Parliament, representatives of the Foreign Office and other government departments and other friends of Jordan.

[illegible]

leader of 'the GLC and chairman of the theatre appeal said the site in the Mile End Road, Stepney, was one of the few suitable for development. He was standing the general policy of restraint on new office development in central London, the scheme is a worthwhile one.'

The theatre developer, Central and City Properties, is providing much of the £1.2m cost of the new theatre, and the GLC has agreed in principle to 'assist financially

### Apple harvest

The Apple Harvest dinner took place last night at Painters and Sculptors Hall. The Mayor, Sir John Gillingham, presided and proposed the toast of the guests. Mr B. A. Johnston was among the guests were: Mr B. W. B. and Mrs. M. A. Hirst; Mr J. A. Bamford, Mr C. P. Cocksedge,

summons visionary armies headed by Veronique from their graves to fight for France, but despite the expense of the production, a certain amount of true feeling wins through, owing no doubt largely to Gaite's mastery of his medium; learnt from the films of de Mille and Thomas Ince.

Gaite's next film, *La Roue*, took three years to make and cost an unprecedented amount for French studios of the time. By this date the masterpieces of Griffith had been seen by the French, and Gaite tried to emulate them in a vast epic story of an engine-driver who represents a modern equivalent of Oedipus and Sisyphus rolled into one. The film is one of the worst films, there are portions which are pretentious, ex-

during the London Film Festival; it was shown again at special performances earlier this year. The music for the film was written by Camille Saint-Saëns.

After *Napoleon* Cance overreached himself: his next film, which took even longer to make, was overtaken by the advent of sound, and was finally distributed in 1931 as *Le Dernier des Bretons*. His next was *La Fin du Monde*. After the failure of this ambitious effort he fell back on a sound remake of his silent film *Mater Delorosa*—a success. But Cance found himself much less at home in the changed conditions of 1930s film-making, which forced him to curb his natural prolixity and extravagance.

His most interesting films

Mr Justice Goff, 55; Sir J. A. S. J. Ginnings, 47; Sir Ronald Millar, 50; Sir John G. S. 50; Sir John Duke, 71; Sir Charles Spowth, 70; the Marquess of Zeland, 73.

### Recital.

A recital was given yesterday by the Rev. Canon Howard, organist, at the home of Lord and Lady Craigie in aid of Cruse, the National organization for the blind and their children. Mr Derek Nuttall, director, introduced the recital and a presentation of the Cruse Medal to Mrs Sternberg, national treasurer, by Mr V. Wauchope who organized the event.

### Institute of Actuaries

Mr George Howard, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the British Association of Actuaries, was the principal guest at the biennial dinner of the Institute of Actuaries held at Grosvenor House yesterday. He proposed the toast to the institute. Mr Antony R. N. Kitchell, president, replied.

**Moreover**

Many people find it difficult to trace the connexion between the Japan of history and the Japan of today. On the one hand, exquisite hand-crafted delicacy, on the other, a world of mass-production, electronics and car bodies.

But I have found a firm link between ancient Japan and modern Japan: the haiku. This is a three-lined poem (5, 7, then 5 syllables) which mirrors some form of human emotion in the natural world in a striking image. For instance, from the seventeenth century:

Where the cuckoo flies  
— till it is lost to sight —  
out there  
a lone island lies

The great names of haiku-land from the past are men like Basho, Rinsen and Issa.

er . . . Miles

Spring, cherry blossom  
Autumn still cherry blossom!  
Japanese plastic  
(Mitsubishi)

Four doors surround me,  
two in the back, two in front  
and I don't get in.  
"Datsun"  
jokyo haiku. The original  
japanese: reads roughly: new/  
style/saloon/model: oh/so/  
roomy)

The old temple bell,  
it hantms me. I press again  
the replay button  
(Sony)

You take your shoes off.  
I take mine, and we have  
lunch.

Later I am rich  
and famous. Almost un-  
translatable, this one. The  
Japanese text is literally

**Kington**

anese boors. A Japanese reader would catch other overtones, such as the fleeting nature of memory and the new, improved, sitting of the wing mirrors.)

My name sounds a bit Japanese.

It isn't, actually. But I don't mind.

As it always helps in world markets to sound Japanese.

Herodotus was very inferior and badly imported bit of verse, probably from Europe.)

—

Ready you get your fourth card in our fabulous Times Card Stud Poker game. You already have three kings, while the Features Editor, your opponent, has one card face down and two tens. Your hand is the

the vagrant or just as fast, but the film is a study in the triumphs of the wonderfully lyrical sections dealing with the railway; one of the finest expressions in art of a basically 19th-century brand of mechanical romanticism. The film is one of the in this film *Gance* broke with current practice by shooting most of the film out of doors, on location, and using rapid editing to create his effects.

For his next important film, *Le Capitaine Corcoran* (1927) he carried technical experiment even further, and incidentally anticipated many of the most modern filming techniques by shooting it in black and white, making it to be shown from the beginning to the end on the same film strip on the screen. Though more than a little dubious, historically and psychologically, the film remains a masterpiece (its enduring power was shown when it was re-released in the Fifties and ran in a Montparnasse cinema for more

Borgia (1936) - with Edwige Fenech and some characteristically orgy scenes, *Un Grand Soir* (1936) distinguished by Harry Baur's performance and some interesting experiments with sound to convey Beethoven's deafness, a remake of *L'Accuse* (1938), and the more delicate and delicate *Paradis Perdu* (1939).

After *Le Capitain Fracassé* (1942), Gance retired from the screen for a dozen years, reappearing with *La Tour de Nesle* (1955), a spirited and colourful version of Dumas's historical novel, *Le Comte de Montecristo* (1958) and *Le Dernier Jour d'un Condamné* (1961), a high quality production. After this he continued to experiment with his old schemes for even bigger and better screens through a method of his own called 'cinéma panoramique', the first of which, his research, being shown at the Brussels Exhibition in 1958.

Abel Gance was perhaps the

**Latest will:**  
William Edwardes, Seventh Baron KENNINGTON, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, late Lieutenant-Colonel Guides Cavalry Indian Army, left estate in England and Wales valued at £280,502.  
Mr Leslie Sydney MARLER, of Whitchurch, Buckinghamshire, Chairman of Capital and Counties Property from 1950 to 1971 and of Marler Estates 1972-78, left estate valued at £277,315 gross, net nil.

homely nature. But their modern equivalents — poets like Datsun and Honda, Toshiba and Mitsubishi — take their images straight from technology. The delicacy is still there, but allied to a contemporary vision. Here are a few striking poems written in the last 10 years. The grey geese fly south and almost escape when click! they freeze in a film. (by Nikon)

/neak /house /for /business/  
 meeting: you /think /Brit/  
 winning-argument. How-  
 wrong/can/you-be?)

In the boot I find  
 Bat, ball, frisbee, kitchen  
 sink.  
 Ah! The days of youth.  
 (Toyota. The poet is here,  
 trying to convey two mes-  
 sages; the distance of youth-  
 innocence and the  
 consciousness of modern lan-

Now is your chance to clean up. Send another £100 stake and get your last card tomorrow. Friday is now!

ong and involved (despite the fact that it never got further than the crossing of the Alps or the first Italian campaign), it attained a genuinely epic quality and the spectacular scenes on the triple screen were most impressive, as was the extensive use of the "subjective camera" to record for the first time what it felt

screen: his conceptions were always vast and intricate, and if no one could possibly live up to them completely at least he often succeeded beyond all expectation, producing, if never one film which was great as a whole, at least many individual sequences worthy to stand with the finest the cinema has to offer.

## Moreover . . . Miles Kingston

Many people find it difficult to trace the connexion between the Japan of history and the Japan of today. On the one hand, exquisite handicrafted delicacy, on the other, mass production of electronics and car bodies.

But I have found a firm link between ancient Japan and modern Japan: the haiku. This is a three-lined poem (5, 7, 5, then 5 syllables) which has been a constant accompaniment in the natural world since a striking image. For instance, from the seventeenth century:

Where the cockoo flies  
- fill it is lost to sight -  
out there  
a lone island lies

The great names of haiku-writing from the past are men like Basho, Buson and Issa, who took the images from the inhumanly nature. But their modern equivalents - poets like Darum and Honda, Tsubaba and Mitsubishi - take their images straight from the technology. The delicacy is still there, but allied to contemporary vision. Here are a few striking poems written in the last 10 years.

The grey geese fly south  
and almost escape when click!  
the camera in a film.  
(by Nikon)

Spring, cherry blossom  
Autumn still cherry blossom!  
Japanese plastic  
(Mitsubishi)

Four doors surround me,  
two in the back, two in front  
Where do I get in?  
Datsun. An unusually  
joky haiku. The original  
Japanese: reads roughly: new/  
style/saloon/model: oh/so/  
roomy)

The old temple bell,  
it hammers me. I press again  
the replay button  
(Sony)

You take your shoes off.  
I take mine, and we have  
lunch.  
Later I am rich.  
(Hitachi. Almost un-  
translatable this one. The  
Japanese text is literally  
conceivable like: Japanese  
steak / house / for / business  
engineering: you / think / Brit /  
winning-argument. How-  
winning/can/you-be?)

In the boot I find  
Bat, ball, fristee, kitchen  
sink.  
Ah! The days of youth.  
(Toyota. The poet is here,  
trying to convey two mes-  
sages: the distance of youth-  
ful innocence and the  
urgency of modern life)

anese boots. A Japanese  
 reader would catch other  
 overtones, such as the fleet-  
 ing nature of memory and the  
 new, improved state of the  
 wing mirrors.)

My name sounds a bit  
 Japanese.  
 It isn't, actually. But I don't  
 mind.

As it always helps in world  
 markets to sound Japanese.  
 (I feel that we make a  
 and shoddy imported bit of  
 (reverse, probably from Europe.)

---

Today you get your fourth  
 card, our fabulous Times  
 Card Stud Pon game. You  
 already have three kings.  
 While the Features Editor,  
 your opponent, has one card  
 down and two tens.

Your new card may be the  
 10K. His new card is the 10V.  
 You have three tens to  
 lose your three kings, while you  
 have the chance of a full  
 house or, of course, four  
 kings. How can you lose?  
 The Features Editor, by the  
 way, is looking more than  
 serious and his ace is offer-  
 ing. But he refuses to throw  
 in his hand.

Now is your chance to clean  
 up. Send another £100 stake  
 and send your last card  
 down.

the railway, one of the finest expressions - in art of a basically 19th-century brand of mechanical romanticism. It is worth noting too that in this film Gance broke with current practice by shooting most of the film out of doors - on location, and using rapid rotation to create his effects.

"It was his next important film, and his most famous, *Napoleon* (1927), which was a technical experiment even further, and incidentally anticipated many of the most modern filming techniques, by shooting it to be shown from three projectors on a triple screen. It was undoubtedly the most audacious - historically and psychologically, the film remains a masterpiece (its enduring power was shown when it was revived in Paris in the Fifties) and ran in a number of European theatres for more than two years; tremendously strong and involved (despite the fact that it never got further than the crossing of the Alps) - or the first Italian campaign, it attained a genuinely epic atmosphere, and the scenes on the triple screen were most impressive, as was the extensive use of the 'subjective camera' to record - or the first time what I felt

distinguished by Harry Baur's  
 performance and some inter-  
 esting experiments with  
 sound to convey Beethoven's  
 deafness, a remake of  
*l'Accuse* (1938), and the  
 charming and delicate *Paradis*  
*de l'Opéra* (1939).

After *Le Capitain Fracasse*  
 (1940), Gance retired from the  
 screen for a dozen years, re-  
 appearing with *La Tour de*  
*Nesle* (1955), a spirited and  
 old-fashioned version of Dumas's  
 old sensational drama of  
 love and radiance, with high  
 art flourishes. After this he con-  
 tinued to experiment with his  
 old schemes for even bigger  
 and better screens through a  
 method of his own called  
 Polyvision, the first results of  
 his research being shown at  
 the Brussels Exhibition in  
 1958.

Abel Gance was perhaps the  
 greatest Romantic of the cin-  
 e screen: his conceptions were  
 always vast and intricate, and  
 if no one could possibly live  
 up to them completely at least  
 Gance often succeeded be-  
 cause of his expectation produc-  
 ing, if never one film which  
 was great as a whole, at least  
 many individual sequences  
 worthy to stand with the  
 finest the cinema has to offer.

**DR L. T. TOPSFIELD**

Dr. L. T. Topf field died on November 3, 1959. His death, occurring at a time when he was reaching a peak of productive scholarship, is a sad loss to medieval Romance studies and to the history of his college and university.

He came up to Cambridge from Westcliff H.S. in October, 1938, as an Open Exhibitioner in Modern Languages at St. Catharine's, where he established himself as an all-round scholar. He was to remain all his life.

Having taken a double first in French and German in Part of the Modern Languages Tripos in 1939, he left in 1940 to do research in the Royal Library, attaining the rank of major, before returning to St. Catharine's on demobilization in January, 1946. Achieving another first in Part 2 of the Tripos in 1947, he elected himself a scholar of the College and was awarded in 1948 the Amy Preston Read Scholarship. In 1949, he went on to research medieval Provencal, first in the University of Oxford, then at Dr. H. J. B. Spang's house, under Jean Couziere.

He was appointed a university assistant lecturer in French and Provencal in 1950 and promoted to university lecturer in 1951, the former year, he had been elected to a Fellowship and Directorship of Studies at St. Catharine's. He so began a long period of devoted service to the college, while continuing, no under-estimate throughout his life a full and busy career in the university. He was a full and full teaching load for his own and other colleges, he undertook major college administrative duties — Bursar 1955-59; Domestic 1959-68; and yet he found time for outside academic activities.

Secretary of the Modern Universities Research Association

From 1950 to 1955, editor of *The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies* from 1955 to 1958, a member of several editorial boards and in increasing demand as a conference speaker and visiting lecturer, he continued to be published in 1971 his first major book, a long-needed critical scientific edition of the troubadour Raimon de Provençe, a publication which, allied with his numerous translations and important contributions to learned journals, immediately ensured him an international reputation. As a professor he confirmed in 1975 with *Troubadours and Love*, a widely acclaimed treatise on courtly love which combined originality of thought with maturity of scholarship. His reputation as a distinguished scholar is now attracting younger research students from home and abroad, adding new responsibilities to an already heavy teaching load but not lessening his interest in publishing in 1981 another characteristic major book, *Chrétien de Troyes: A study of the *Provençal* *Romanances**; and, at the same time, he succeeded in 1979 in being elected to the W. W. Bennett as editor of *Medium Aevum*. Other important work, both individual and collaborative, was also in train.

Topsfield's early death has left him of the wider public sphere the recognition which must surely have come his way and which was perhaps already overdue. His scholarly output would have been even more extensive if he had been less involved in college life, but he was one of the diminishing sample of professors for whom Cambridge counts above all on a college.

With his wife, Valerie, he was a generous and genial host to numerous students and a sturdy supporter of all college and college-wide social and cultural activities.

# THE TIMES UNIVERSITY RESULTS SERVICE

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

coming at a time when he was teaching a peak of productive scholarship in the field of medieval Romance studies and a severe blow to his college and university.

He came up to Cambridge from Westcliff H.S. in October, 1938, as an Open Exhibitioner in Modern Languages at St. Catharine's, where he quickly established himself as an all-round college man, he was to remain all his life.

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He was appointed a university assistant lecturer in French at Provincial in 1950 and promoted to university lecturer in 1955; in the latter year, he had been elected to a Fellowship and Directorship of Studies at St. Catharine's, so began a long period of devoted service to the college.

His continuing, on and on, throughout his life a full teaching load, a full lecture-room and a full teaching load for his own and their colleges, he undertook major college administrative duties — Bursar 1955-59; Domestic/Bursar 1959-66; and 1965-79, and yet academic activities.

Secretary of the Modern Languages Research Association

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THE TIMES HEALTH SUPPLEMENT

**This week:** How would Enoch Powell run our health service? How will the new Communist health minister of France run theirs? What are the chances of catching something nasty in hospital? Has Jimmy Savile fixed Stoke Mandeville? What has happened in health this week? What are the new books? What do the top people think?

**THS**  
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Overseas aid  
as export  
bait, page 17

# Business News

THE TIMES Thursday November 12, 1981

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## EEC increases steel prices despite protest

By Peter Norman and Peter Hill

European steelmakers were told yesterday that they should raise their prices for normal steel by an average of 12.5 per cent at the beginning of next year despite strong pressure from steel-users to postpone any rise.

The timing of the announcement by Viscount Eddington, the European Economic Community industry commissioner, surprised and angered leaders of Britain's steel industry. They are among a delegation due to discuss the price issue with Viscount Eddington today.

The proposal to raise prices has caused a wave of protest at the pace of steel increases and Mr John Safford, director of the British Iron and Steel Consumers' Council, said: "The nature of the announcement and its timing is typical of the disregard which the Commission has displayed towards the steel-using industries."

It has suggested that the January price increase, which would work out at 100 pounds a tonne, should be followed by further rises, totalling 40 Deutsche marks a tonne more, during next year. It said

the additional increases should be carried through in at least two stages to protect customers from too abrupt a rise.

The decision is a blow to steel consumers, who argue that they already suffer from reduced demand and will find it difficult to absorb this latest round of increases. They are worried about the impact on short-term financial performance and longer term competitiveness.

But the Commission pointed out that the price increases pushed through by the steel industry in July and November had done no more than compensate for the 5 per cent drop in steel prices when the industry went into deep recession in 1980, and had done nothing to offset the increased cost of coke, oil, electricity and iron ore.

The Commission also urged a rise of about 14 per cent in the price of flat steel and special steels at the beginning of January.

However, in outlining the increases as a catching up exercise, it said the steel industry should aim to offset cost increases coming at the beginning of next year by more rationalisation and by closing obsolete plants.

The steel-users welcomed this aspect of the Commission's decision.

## Woolworth crackdown wipes out its loss

By Peter Wainwright

F. W. Woolworth, the store chain, is once again making money. Mr Geoffrey Rogers, its chairman, yesterday reported a £4.9m profit for the third quarter, wiping out the £1.48m loss of the previous six months.

In the nine months to October 31, the group made pretax profits of £3.4m against £7.1m. These are less than one half of 1 per cent of sales, which amounted to £1,200m, including value-added tax, to £709.2m, against £524.5m.

However, Woolworth was gratified with this 13.6 per cent gain in turnover, which was faster than the average High Street sales increase, and ahead of inflation.

To this extent, Operation Crackdown—launched last February when the group hired a consultancy to examine its operations—has succeeded in its aim to cut costs and improve efficiency.

The campaign cut prices on 800 lines when competitors were also slashing prices. Initial advertising expenditure was £6m, indicating Woolworth's basic problem in recession. Its rivals, such as Marks & Spencer, with an excellent reputation for quality and value, spend little on advertising.

The directors reported that the sales pattern in the nine months showed little change on the first half-year.

Financial Editor, page 17



## Georgian dockland to get a £30m facelift

The decaying dockland at Gloucester, above, much of it built in the early nineteenth century, is to be redeveloped at a cost of £30m. Sir Frank Price, chairman of the Gloucester Harbour Board, who promised that conservation would be the keynote, said: "The scheme will add an attractive, dynamic dimension to Gloucester, allowing its town centre to expand."

The redevelopment will include a new stretch of water, creating an island on which warehousing will be converted into 135 flats and new houses will be grouped around the historic Mariner's Church. Other amenities will include facilities for leisure boating, a 70-bedroom hotel and a multi-storey car park with adjoining shops. Fourteen early nineteenth century

warehouses will be converted for other uses, and one is now being surveyed by the Government for possible conversion into a crown court.

The project is being undertaken by Britannia (Cheltenham), which is heading a consortium. Investment is to be raised among small groups.

Report, page 16

## New joint car project agreed with Honda

By Edward Townsend

BL and Honda of Japan will today announce an extension of their collaboration deal which will result in the joint manufacture of a new car.

Agreement on the new model comes just over a month after the launch in Britain of the Triumph Acclaim, BL's version of the Honda Ballade which, in its first four weeks on sale, became the country's fifth best-selling car.

The new deal, to be announced in Tokyo by Mr Ray Horrocks, chairman of BL Cars, appears to involve much greater integration of the two companies' operations.

Although the Acclaim is assembled at BL's Cowley plant near Oxford, its design is little changed from the original Honda model. BL said yesterday that the latest stage in collaboration involved "the co-development of an important new car with BL and Honda as equal partners on design, development and manufacture."

It was unclear last night whether the new car would be manufactured in the United Kingdom or Japan, or in both countries simultaneously. BL also declined to say which, if any, of its current models would be replaced.

Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, had previously expressed his preference for further collaboration with Honda with both companies aware of the attractiveness of pooling development costs.

In a letter to *The Times* last month, Mr Kiyoshi Kawashima, Honda's president, expressed his company's belief in international cooperation. "In some highly complex industries, the talents of a range of countries will be progressively harnessed to design and produce products which serve the environmental needs of our times. The prosperity of Japan, Britain and the West will be determined by how realistically we face the need for change."

BL executives have been negotiating with Honda ever since the conclusion of the Acclaim deal. The car, which is proving particularly successful in the important fleet market, has been regarded by the United Kingdom industry as a "stop gap" model before the introduction in 1983 of the LC 10 range of medium-sized cars.

With the LC 10 range, BL will cover most of the popular sectors of the car market apart from the sports car segment, which it abandoned following the demise of MG and the ending of Triumph TR7 production.

## TUC attacks oil sell-off plan

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Trade Union leaders yesterday joined the controversy over the Government's plans for selling off the oil production assets of the British National Oil Corporation, saying that the oil activities of the British Gas Corporation.

Mr Len Murray, General Secretary of the TUC led the heading clash with Mr Nigel Lawson, the Energy Secretary, at yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council.

Mr Murray underlined the TUC's strong opposition to the planned disposal which is likely to yield an estimated £2,000m at yesterday's meeting of the TUC would raise the issue again at a future meeting of the council.

Mr Murray attacked the Government for seeking to dispose

of the nation's wealth producing assets at a knockdown price which, he claimed, would enable the City to make a further killing as it had in selling shares in Cable and Wireless.

The TUC also criticised the Government's failure to secure the construction of an integrated gas gathering pipeline for the northern North Sea which, it claimed, would lead to the wasteful flaring of gas and deprive the petrochemical industry of valuable feed stock material.

The TUC's assault predictably drew little support from industrialists, and Mr Lawson defended the Government's plans.

It was not the Government's intention, he said, to sell public assets at knockdown prices nor would the Government flout

any share issue to the public at a time when market conditions were "spiced".

The primary purpose, he continued, was not to relieve pressure on the public sector borrowing requirement, although a share issue would help—and Mr Lawson stressed that the Government was talking about a sale of the majority of the production interests of the BNOC which presently represented 7 per cent of North Sea total production.

The state would continue to control the oil selling activities of the Corporation and would also retain powers to control the flaring of gas, production levels and overall supervision of all activities.

Financial Editor, page 17

## Japan study on trade surcharge

Tokyo, Nov. 11.—Japan's Finance Ministry is studying the possible introduction of a surcharge to correct its trade imbalances with the United States and Western Europe.

The plan may be submitted to a special cabinet council meeting, probably next Tuesday, to discuss measures to ease trade friction by reducing Japan's growing trade surplus.

The plan envisages a half-yearly survey of rises in exports by various Japanese industries over the past year. A 10 per cent surcharge would be imposed on industries with rates of increase exceeding the average.

A tentative estimate shows that exports of industries to which the surcharge may be applied totalled 9,000,000 yen (£21,000m) in the first half of this financial year, starting April, and are expected to reach 20,000,000 yen for the whole year.

On this basis, a 10 per cent surcharge will produce tax income of 2,000,000 yen in this financial year.

Other ministries and industry oppose the plan.

Rising imports of Japanese light commercial vehicles will be the main issue at a meeting in London on November 24 between officials of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association.

Japan has asked Washington to investigate alleged discrimination against the Japanese computer maker, Fujitsu, which claims it was unfairly treated when it bid recently for a contract for an optical fibres communications system linking Boston, New York and Washington.—Reuter.

## Reagan tax cut a 'Trojan horse'

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Nov 11

A controversy has arisen here over remarks attributed to Mr David Stockman, the President's budget director, that the Reagan tax cut is actually a "Trojan horse" designed to help rich people, not the poor or middle classes.

Mr Stockman is quoted in the December issue of *Atlantic Monthly* magazine saying that the Reagan administration deliberately disguised the real intent of its tax programme in order to push it through an unsuspecting Congress.

President Reagan was asked at his news conference on Tuesday to comment on the article but he declined, saying he would have to check with Mr Stockman. He vigorously defended the tax cut, however.

Meanwhile Congressional Democrats, who have long condemned Mr Reagan's tax cut as a rich man's plan, seized upon the remarks and demanded an explanation.

Senator Ernest Hollings, the South Carolina Democrat who



Stockman: "help-rich scheme disguised"

has announced his intention to seek his party's Presidential nomination, described Mr Stockman as "the best off Broadway show we have ever had."

In the article, Mr Stockman is quoted as saying the administration "disguised" his "controversial" tax cut as a new "supply-side economic theory" which it promoted as the solu-

tion to everyone's problems. In fact, he said, the tax cut was a veiled version of traditional Republican "trickle-down" economics intended to aid the wealthiest citizens in the hope that the resulting benefits will move through the entire economy, triggering a business boom.

"It is kind of hard to sell trickle-down, so the supply-side formula was the only way to get our tax policy. Supply-side is trickle-down," Mr Stockman was quoted as saying.

After the Reagan news conference, the White House issued a formal statement denouncing the article as "wrong and grossly misleading."

The article quoted Mr Stockman as being convinced that the Reagan programme had failed. "By early April, I began to realize the economic theory behind the President's programme was not working. While it was winning in the political arena, the plan was losing on Wall Street," Mr Stockman was reported as saying.

## THF eyes Madrid Ritz

By Derek Harris and Baron Phillips

Trusthouse Forte, Britain's biggest hotels group headed by Sir Charles Forte, its executive chairman, is in talks over a possible purchase of the Ritz Hotel in Madrid. The talks are part of efforts involving leading hotels in Europe and North America aimed at expanding THF's international hotel presence.

The Madrid Ritz, widely regarded as the city's leading hotel, was built early this century in belle époque style by a group of Spanish aristocrats, making advice from Cesar Ritz, the Swiss hotelier. It has 156 rooms and faces the Prado Museum. It also has a reputation for exclusiveness: not even national parliament members, located nearby, set in without wearing a tie.

Debenhams, Freebody's former building in London's Wigmore Street, has been acquired by London & Leeds Investments, the property arm of the Ladbroke group, for £6.5m cash.

London & Leeds has acquired planning permission to redevelop the Edwardian building and create 60,000 sq ft of offices, about 12 apartments, 6,000 sq ft of retail units, together with a further 17,000 sq ft space at basement level.

## Newsprint capacity rising

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Newsprint production capacity in Sweden, one of the main suppliers to United Kingdom newspapers, is expected to increase from its present level of 1.6 million tonnes to almost 2 million tonnes a year by 1985, according to the Swedish Pulp and Paper Association.

Mr Bo Wengren, the association's director general, said in London yesterday that despite current overcapacity in newsprint throughout the world, new machines would continue to be brought on stream in Sweden in the next few years to match the long-term trend towards increasing international demand.

At the same time, the outlook for new investment in machinery for the production of market pulp was not encouraging. Low profitability and high interest rates were deterring investors, he said.

Yet there is reason to believe that, in the medium term, an upturn in international economy will create an increased demand for market pulp.

Paper consumption throughout Europe, including the Nordic countries, is expected to be slightly lower this year than the 1980 figure of about 44 million tonnes, rising to about 45 million tonnes next year.

### Stock Markets

FT Index 508.2 up 5.5  
FT 100 62.66 up 0.32  
FT All Share 305.48 up 1.52  
Bergsman 16.362

### Sterling

\$ 1.8790 up 1.20 cents  
Index 89.2 up 0.1  
New York \$1.8820

### Dollar

Index 107.0 down 0.5  
DM 2.2145 down 185 pts

### Gold

\$412.75 down \$2.25  
New York \$410.80

### Money

3 mth sterling 15 1/2-15 3/4  
3 mth Euro \$ 131-14  
6 mth Euro \$ 131-14 1/2

### PRICE CHANGES

**Rises**  
Allied Low Prop 13p to 15p  
British-Sugar 15p to 16p  
De Beers 25p to 26p  
Electrocomp 12p to 13p  
Gen Act 10p to 11p  
GEC 16p to 17p  
Lassmo 15p to 16p  
Mercuriale 15p to 16p  
Mortin EP 14p to 15p  
M&G Group 14p to 15p  
Schroder 9p to 10p  
Wolsey Hughes 30p to 32p

**Falls**  
Brocken Hill 8p to 7p  
Davies-Newman 5p to 4p  
Klarnes 22p to 21p  
Lethic 6p to 5p  
Northgate Explorer 12p to 11p  
Polly Racer 12p to 11p  
Ranger Oil 20p to 19p  
RYZ 7p to 6p  
Sangers 14p to 13p  
TLC Invest 7p to 6p  
Western Area 9p to 8p  
W & A Com 11p to 10p  
Whitbread A 11p to 10p

## Date set for Playboy sale

A £17m sale of Playboy's London casinos to Trident Television, about to be completed with three to four weeks, Mr Mark Huston, executive vice-president, said at the annual meeting in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

However, Trident regarded the sale as highly optimistic. Trident is obliged to issue Class 1 circulars to its shareholders because of the size of the proposed purchase, and this requires a large amount of information in preparation for the annual accounts. Trident, whose financial year ends on September 30, generally does not produce its accounts until late January.

## Public pension reform urged

Public sector pension schemes could be brought into the private sector as a way of easing the increasing burden of taxation placed on working members of the community by index-linked pension for civil servants, Mr W. J. Goldsmith, director general of the Institute of Directors, said at the National Association of Pension Funds annual conference.

Civil servants should be required to buy into an approved private pension scheme, he said.

## Clarks plants may close

Mr J. Clark, the Somerset shoe company, has said that as many as 1,000 of its 9,000 work-force could face redundancy.

Mr Clark said that the company was planning to close two of its factories, one in the West of England and one in Durdham in the Republic of Ireland.

Mr Clark said that the company was producing 20 per cent more shoes than it could sell. Because of the recession people were buying fewer shoes and choosing cheaper brands, mainly imported.

Cognac brandy sales dropped 16.5 per cent in Britain over the last year, according to the French industry's trading year to the end of August. The number of bottles imported dropped to 14.6m.

Shell became the last of the big petrochemicals to announce a price increase of about 4p a gallon. Four-star prices in most areas are expected to rise to between £1.70 and £1.72.

## Midland's new gold card

Midland Bank is to offer customers a new prestige travel and entertainment card from next spring. The gold MasterCard is aimed at businessmen and international travellers earning about £20,000 a year or more, and will have no spending limit. Cardholders will pay a £40 annual subscription and will receive an automatic £7,500 overdraft facility at preferential rates and special benefits at Thomas Cook offices.

## No early tax system change

Radical changes in the tax system, such as self-assessment and local income tax could not be introduced before 1987, Sir Lawrence Aikyn, chairman of the board of Inland Revenue told a Commons select committee yesterday.

The Inland Revenue is at present testing mainframe computers for full computerisation of PAYE and would soon begin to install computerized systems in certain offices.

Sir Lawrence said computerization would lead to a cut in 6,800 jobs dealing with PAYE.

## Bull market forecast

"The incredible height of real interest rates, coupled with a reasonably favourable outlook for inflation, suggests very strongly that there will be a major bull market in bonds and a fall in interest rates in the United Kingdom," Mr Gordon Pepper, senior partner of W. Greenwell, the stockbrokers, told the Society of Investment Analysts yesterday.

But Mr Pepper said that what looked like a promising outlook domestically could yet be upset by developments in the United States.

He suggested that the early years of the Reagan Administration could follow a pattern similar to that of the Thatcher Government.

If that were the case, the United Kingdom gilt edged market would tend to spurt and spurter.

### TODAY

Seamen's pay talks resume. Index of industrial production (September provisional figures). Finished steel consumption and stock changes (third quarter provisional); usable steel production (October).

European League for Economic Cooperation conference opens in London to urge British membership of the European Monetary System.

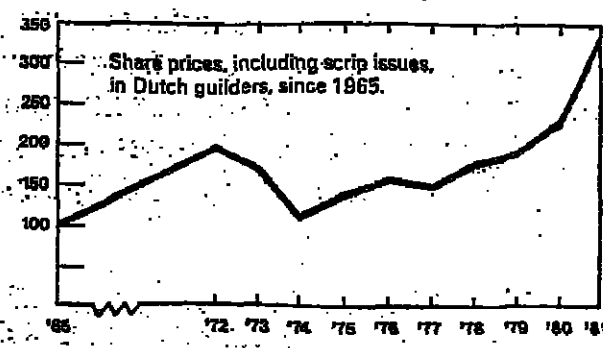
Companies reporting their results today include: Aquacorum, British Commonwealth Shipping, East Midlands Allied Press, Stavros Industries (all half yearly); Ultramar (third quarter).

## ROLINCO'S JUDGEMENT PAYS OFF AGAIN

Another good result confirms that Rolinco, the international investment trust, is an investment for all seasons. The Annual Report provides clear evidence of the Managers' judgement in selecting the right shares, in bad times as well as good. Rolinco backs technology-based industries, "one of the major growth industries of the Eighties" and energy, "a protective investment in politically safe areas". The investment strategy and the results obtained from it are fully set out in the Rolinco Annual Report, just published.

### Rolinco's development

As shown in the Annual Report



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Foreign competition is falling but so are the orders

## Little comfort for furniture makers

# 1981 News Bulletin No 5

## Interim Statement

### Mediocre activity in the first half, partial recovery in the second

The weakening of the construction and automobile industries — two of the Group's principal markets — was perceptible during the second half of 1980 and has continued in 1981.

The consolidated accounts also record the effects of entry into the information processing industry. CIL-Honeywell Bull (France), which was consolidated into Group accounts on July 1, 1980, recorded a loss during the first half of 1981. Olivetti (Italy), which became a Group associated company according to the equity method on the same date, continues to report a very satisfactory performance.

The other noteworthy modification in Group structure is the entry of Lembael, a subsidiary manufacturing sacks and cardboard cartons.

**Consolidated Group sales for the first half** were FF24,333m, of which 57% (FF13,914m) originated in, or was exported from, France. Due to the consolidation of CIL-HB, this increase is 21% compared to sales in the first half of 1980. On the basis of comparable structures, the increase is 6.5%. In France, the increase is 30% and on the basis of comparable structures it is 5.5%.

**Group cash flow** is FF1,538m against FF1,449m for the first half of 1980. Excluding information processing and financial elements, comparable cash flow of the French industrial companies is FF460m, a figure equivalent to the corresponding period of 1980.

**Group capital expenditure on plant and equipment** remained significant at FF1,728m against FF1,018m during the first half of 1980. In France, capital expenditure was FF1,155m compared to FF457m, the increase due primarily to CIL-HB. To this capital expenditure may be added trade investments amounting to FF196m, thus bringing total investments to FF1,922m for the half.

**Group income for the first half** may be analysed as follows: gross operating income FF2,934m against FF2,818m for the first half of 1980; operating income FF578m against FF1,258m; net income FF269m compared to FF508m.

The operating income of the Group French companies is comparable to last year. Excluding information processing, it is FF343m against FF440m during the first

half of 1980. The comparable net income of French companies is FF156m against FF213m in the first half of 1980.


**Group debt** increased by FF598m, whereas it had remained stable during the corresponding period of 1980. This increase stems from information processing, as other Group divisions have reduced their debt.

**An analysis of Group activity for the first half of 1981 shows:**

- \* A clear weakness in sales of insulating products compared to last year (-6%), which has led to deterioration in total division income.
- \* A stabilization, in current francs, of sales and income of the Flat Glass Division, toward the level recorded in 1980.
- \* A good performance, thanks to exports, of the Pipe Division.
- \* Progress in sales and income for the Containers Division (bottles and jars).
- \* Sustained important losses in the Fibre Reinforced Plastics Division, in spite of an increase in sales.
- \* A continuation of losses in the Paper/Wood Division, due principally to the wood sector.

**Group activity by country** shows a weakening of profits in France, accentuated by difficulties in information processing. In Germany, a marked reduction, accentuated in Group accounts by variation between the Deutsche mark and the French franc; in Italy, the solid performance of Olivetti compensates for the slow activity of other companies in which the Group has an interest; in Spain the reduction in income is equally perceptible; in the U.S., high interest rates hinder construction activity and CertainTeed Corporation is recording a slight loss; in Latin America, situations differ according to products but performance on the whole remains satisfactory.

**Predictions for the second half** indicate a recovery in activity, especially in insulation and paper sectors, but a marked improvement in income is not yet foreseen. On the whole, 1981 should therefore be an average year for the Group, the which will again testify to our solidity in the face of crisis.

  
**SAINT-GOBAIN**

For further information, write to: The Direct of External Relations,  
Compagnie de Saint-Gobain, 62 boulevard Victor Hugo, 92208 Neuilly-sur-Seine Cedex.



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Overseas momentum at ABF

The overseas operations have made all the running in the first six months at Associated British Foods and now account for over half of group profits which show an increase from £44.2m to £57.9m. The near two thirds rise in the overseas contribution from £19.3m to £31.9m reflects both recovery in the Antipodes and the very strong performance at Premier Milling in South Africa.

At home milling and baking has had to bear some £2m of redundancy and reorganisation costs taken above the line, and although most of the other manufacturing operations have done reasonably well, there has been a half point setback in the United Kingdom manufacturing division. But on the retail side the success of Fine Fare has more than made up for this, allowing domestic profits to show a £1.1m rise during the period to £26m.

During the second half ABF is quick to point out that comparison will be with a very strong period particularly for the overseas companies while competitive pressures at home are intensifying. The group is still confident of showing some growth, however, over and above the £70.7m in the second half a year ago. With further progress overseas and the possibility of a clean price rise at some stage before Christmas to boost the milling and baking side it is not hard to see profits for the full year rising from £115m to approaching £140m.

Assuming the 16.8 per cent rise in the half year dividend is carried through to the final, the share at 250p will be 4.1 per cent and the prospective yield ratio is about 11.2. Judging by the level of capital spending, which may not be far short of £120m this year and should be broadly covered by cash flow, the group is not allowing the arteries to harden, all of which justifies the premium rating.

● **General Accident is continuing to reap the benefits of its more cautious approach to new business during this pronounced downturn in the insurance cycle.** Underwriting losses have deteriorated steadily through the year with the overall deficit after nine months up from £21.1m to £35m, but thanks to the strong growth in investment income up by almost 20 per cent to £117.3m, gross profits are 20 per cent higher at £82.7m.

The difference with Commercial Union, which reported a quarter drop in profits the day before, lies in its lower exposure to the highly competitive United States market. Unlike CU, GA has not been chasing market share with net premiums in the United States up by only 5 per cent against CU's 23 per cent, and has in fact been turning down unprofitable business.

But even though the operating ratio is some 5 points below CU's at just under 105 per cent American losses have mushroomed from £4.7m to £16.3m.

Also cushioning GA has been the robust performance in the United Kingdom where despite higher expenses last year's loss at the nine-month stage has been transformed into a £5.4m profit.

There are still plenty of weak spots with losses in Canada, Australia and South Africa increasing while the group is getting more pessimistic about the United States and the United Kingdom scene is becoming more vulnerable to competition. But with high cover GA should manage perhaps a 20 per cent increase in the final dividend where the prospective yield after yesterday's 10p rise to 35p is almost 7 1/2 per cent which represents a rather lower premium to the rest of the sector than is usual.

### BNOC

#### Mr Benn's spanner

Mr Tony Benn's threats of renationalization without compensation for any North Sea assets sold by the present Government can only serve to confuse further a situation already entrapped in technical difficulties. None should doubt Mr Nigel Lawson, the new Energy Secretary's resolve to push ahead as rapidly as possible with the sale of both BNOC and British Gas' oil holdings. The critical point for potential buyers, however — and there should be plenty of them in principle — is whether the Government will be able to make a firm offer of sale before another election. The Treasury wants the money as soon as possible. Mr Lawson wants the political victory. But the greater the rush the less the chance of obtaining a fair price for the assets. This particularly applies to the BNOC

sale. Mr Philip Shelbourne, BNOC's chairman, wants a sale of 51 per cent of equity primarily to free the Corporation from government interference. The threats of renationalization would suggest the same route, as renationalizing small shareholders would be more contentious than taking back straight asset sales.

The idea of selling off BNOC's share in various fields rather than an equity offer is therefore regaining ground in Treasury circles. The difficulty here, as with the sale of BGC's oil producing assets, is that the operating agreements generally require partners selling out to offer their share to their partners at the best price available. And most of the partners concerned in these fields are foreign-based companies. Short of overriding these agreements, the Government will still be faced with the problem of establishing what the market price is and then getting round the foreign issue. The sale of BGC's interests in the Wytch Farm onshore oil field, for which parliamentary approval has already been gained, is still a year away. Offshore sales will take longer unless the Government is prepared to sell them on the cheap. The earlier the sale, the more likely it will be that the oil companies get the pickings not the British investor.

### F. W. Woolworth

#### A waiting game

Woolworth's had a series of false dawns and darkest hours, but still the shares managed to rise a 1/4p to 52 1/4p yesterday on news of pretax profits of £3.4m against £7.1m in the first nine months of the year to next January. Even though £1m came from property disposals, it contrasted with a maiden loss in the first six months, and analysts' hopes of around £2.5m. But seasonal patterns are not necessarily repeatable when profits vanish, and what the third quarter effort portends remains inscrutable. Turnover was, after all, £709m in the nine months, a 13.6 per cent increase, and equally valuable a rise of one or two per cent in volume. Operation Crackdown, designed to stun shoppers with cut prices has informally but not unofficially come and gone, which leaves Woolworth with its basic policy of regaining customers by trading up into more expensive lines which sell most around Christmas. Last year Woolworth made £39.2m before tax in the full year (against £57.25m) but around £32m came in the Christmas quarter.

The impression still is that Woolworth has a long way to go before restoring its high street image. "Do it yourself" is barely profitable, though Woolworth with a wealth of property to sell can afford the most expensive acquisitions. On balance, the City will be pleased to see Woolworth making £30m this year. The 13 per cent yield recognizes last year's interim dividend cut, and pays little attention to rumbling rumours of the United States parent either getting a grip or selling out.

● **Every good takeover candidate worth its salt produces profits nicely above figures forecast in the heat of battle.** So it is with British Sugar with pretax profits for the year to September coming out at £51m against a forecast of some £49m and £34.2m in the comparable 12 months. British Sugar is also pushing up the dividend and the year's total is 35.7p gross a share compared with 24.7p.

The key to the improvement in British Sugar's profitability is the £150m it has spent in the last five years modernising and enlarging some of its factories. By investing in capital equipment and plant, taking advantage of modern control techniques and retraining the workforce, the group has managed to maintain its normal annual tonnage of about 7.5m through 13 factories as against 17 two years ago. To make up a slight shortfall in the amount of sugar actually produced, the group drew on stocks. This had the side effect of borrowings dropping by £31.8m, although a lower level of capital expenditure also played a significant role here.

Despite a touch of market scepticism most gave British Sugar the benefit of the doubt and the shares rose 15p to 340p, a new peak for the year with a yield of 9.4 per cent, the share and the results should make Betsford, which bid 335p, think again.

Ten months ago, trawler skippers setting sail for the fishing grounds from the Scottish port of Aberdeen were paying £172 a tonne for their marine diesel oil. For an industry which has been on its beam ends for several years it was a high price to pay to go fishing — the highest in Europe in fact.

Many trawler skippers must have reflected on the irony that he was paying £40 a tonne more for his fuel than his fellow fishermen operating out of the Humber ports of Hull and Grimsby. After all, Aberdeen is the centre of the offshore oil industry, the oil is brought ashore at Peterhead and substantial quantities are refined at Grimsby.

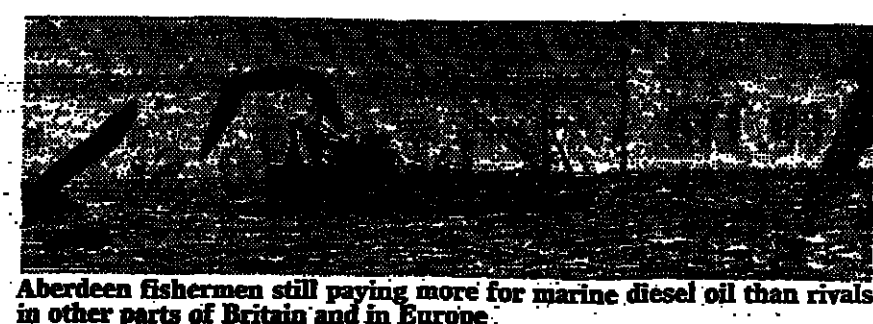
The oil companies claim that it is due to the higher distribution costs involved — a defence which the Scottish fishermen find difficult to swallow.

This curious quirk was identified in the first report of the energy task force, which was established by the National Economic Development Council (NEDC) to look into the growing controversy over disparities between prices paid for energy by major industrial consumers in this country and by their competitors in western Europe.

The Government was forced to take action and the Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe, announced a £160m package to ease the pressure on energy intensive industries in his Budget statement earlier this year.

But the package fell short of what the hard-pressed industries involved had called for. In particular, the package failed to reduce the 28 a tonne duty on heavy fuel oil.

Nonetheless, the easing of cash limits on British Gas and the pegging of industrial gas prices for 12 months from December last year were of some help. With instructions to the electricity supply authorities to offer more flexible contracts and to introduce a new arrangement for customers able to vary the load at short notice, the package went some way towards easing the problems which had accumulated.



Aberdeen fishermen still paying more for marine diesel oil than rivals in other parts of Britain and in Europe.

## Energy costs - easing industry's burden

In the steel industry's case it was estimated that the measures would produce savings of between £15m and £20m in the course of this year, though the steelmen calculated that a further £125m reduction would be necessary to match European prices.

The task force has since been looking at the extent to which the disparities have been maintained or narrowed and its latest report considered by the NEDC at its meeting yesterday will give much comfort to ministers, the energy suppliers, and to the big industrial consumers. But not so the Scottish fishermen or indeed industrial users of electricity.

First the fishermen: the Aberdeen skipper is still paying more than his rivals in other parts of the United Kingdom and in Europe. His marine diesel oil price increased since the beginning of the year to £193 a tonne in October compared with £170 at Lowestoft and Fleetwood and £166 on the Humber.

In West Germany, trawlers bunkering for a deep sea trip were paying £178.05 a tonne for their fuel and the inshore skippers were paying £187.75 a tonne during October.

The fishermen are not happy, but the task force is able to report more favourably on the bulk energy consumers who account for half of electricity consumption and a substantial proportion of gas.

In the case of heavy fuel oil, which caused so much acrimony last winter, the wide discrepancies between the United Kingdom and EEC prices have not re-emerged, although tax-inclusive prices are still cheaper to continental consumers than in the United Kingdom by a margin of about 5 per cent on average.

Both coal and foundry coke prices are now more or less in line with prices prevailing in Europe — with the exception of France, where foundry coke prices are £17 a tonne cheaper than in the United Kingdom. European price increases and a £10 a tonne price cut made during the summer by National Smokeless Fuels have helped balance the prices.

Gas prices, a cause of much concern last time round, have also moved much more into line with European levels for big industrial consumers (those consuming more than one million therms annually). Consumers supplied under "interrupt-

tible contracts" benefit from an average price advantage of about 2p a therm compared with their European counterparts.

That favourable trend has been helped by the freeze on British Gas industrial prices — now extended to the end of March next year — and by increases implemented at the beginning of October which means that other European industrial consumers of gas have to pay more for Dutch gas exported.

Those Dutch gas export price increases, the rising of fuel oil prices in Europe and favourable exchange rate movements have (along with Sir Geoffrey's Budget package), helped to claw back some of industry's lost competitiveness in the energy area.

But the latest report says that there are continuing discrepancies in electricity prices for bulk industrial consumers. The gap has narrowed since the beginning of the year, but there are still "substantial" differences between United Kingdom prices and those levied in France and Germany.

The differential with France is between 10 and 28 per cent, compared with 20 to 35 per cent at the beginning of this year, while in West Germany the disparity is up to 16 per cent, compared with up to 25 per cent in the last task force report.

The Electricity Council and the Central Electricity Generating Board can expect to come under stiff pressure to speed up reform of the bulk supply tariff.

Discussions on the review between the Electricity Council, the CEB and the area electricity boards are nearing their end but on the present timetable, changes will not be introduced until 1983-84. The bulk energy users at the very least are expected to press for a rather less leisurely pace. There is every indication that energy ministers are anxious that any changes should be instituted, if possible, in 1982-83.

Peter Hill

## Fishing for exports with aid as the bait

In the last few months Britain has succeeded in winning a series of key contracts for projects in the Third World. They were won in the teeth of fierce international competition, and in two cases the Prime Minister herself was actively involved in helping to secure contracts which are estimated to have brought 78,000 man-years of work to recession-hit regions of Britain.

Yet, this success is raising questions about the methods employed in securing such contracts — the use of taxpayers' money to subsidize exporters and the proper use of aid money intended to promote development in the Third World.

It has also highlighted the ambiguity that surrounds the Government's policy objectives and the inadequate transparency in publicly accounting for some of the money used in pursuing these objectives.

Large project contracts in the developing world are a lucrative but cut-throat business. Competition for this business between the countries of Western Europe, North America and Japan is certain to get fiercer.

Recession in the industrialized world deepens and the debt queues lengthen. The industrialized countries are prepared to offer considerable inducements to Third World governments in order to win big project contracts.

These inducements include low-interest loans provided by the country undertaking the contract to help the buyer to pay for it. This is what is known as "export credit". In most industrialized nations export credit is subsidized out of the public purse. In some cases low-interest export credit will be supplemented by overseas aid from the budgets of industrialized countries in order to sweeten their contract tenders still further.

These practices are well established. But the stakes are getting bigger as the market for big project business in the Third World expands.

Three recent deals in which British companies have successfully bid for overseas contracts with government help provide prime examples of the way such business is increasingly conducted. One of these

is the £330m contract won by Davy Corporation to build a steel plate mill at the Sagar industrial complex on Mexico's Pacific coast. This contract formed part of a memorandum of understanding signed by Mrs Thatcher in Mexico City last month.

In order to beat rival bids from the Japanese and the French, Britain provided £180m in cheap export credits to Davy, £35m in aid, and a later sum was a straight gift.

A week later Mr John Biffen, the Trade Secretary, signed a similar memorandum with Professor Delfino Neto the Brazilian Planning Minister. This involved a series of projects worth £250m in orders to Britain's shipbuilding, transport, electronic and construction industries. Some

### Industrial nations provided \$5,500m in export subsidies last year and Britain accounted for nearly a fifth.

£300m of this will be financed by export credits and a £130m gift aid will go towards the conversion of Santa Cruz power station from oil to coal.

But the biggest deal is the £1,250m contract, again won by Davy Corporation, to build a steelworks on a greenfield site at Paradi, eastern India. This contract is being offered at £600m in cheap export credits and £150m in aid. This makes it the largest single-aid project ever.

The greatest use of foreign aid in such deals reflects a shift in aid policy which began under Dame Judith Hart, the last Labour Minister for Overseas Development. In 1978, she agreed to permit up to 5 per cent of the bilateral aid budget to be set aside each year to furnish a separate fund, known formally as the "Aid and Trade Provision" (ATP).

This fund is openly used as a means of ensuring that British companies secure project contracts in those developing countries that do not normally receive aid from Britain or where the planned allocation is already used up.

Whereas the overall aid budget is shrinking, the Government has made it clear that the ATP will be maintained in real terms. Today, it represents 8 per cent of the £874m bilateral aid programme and is certain to go

### Economic notebook

on rising as a proportion of total aid.

Nationally, projects financed out of the Aid and Trade Provision have to pass a "test of minimum development soundness", but former aid officials describe the procedures involved as farce. It is admitted by the Overseas Development Administration that in the case of many ATP projects, it is not always possible to carry out anything approaching the normal appraisal in the available time. The essence of the fund, according to its advocates, is that the money can be deployed swiftly.

This contrasts starkly with the usual procedures for examining proposed aid projects of any significant size, which involves a 30 to 40 page appraisal of the economic and social effects of the project.

Before aid is provided for any such scheme, it has to be approved by a high-powered committee of senior officials, known as the Aid and Trade Committee, made up of officials, economists and advisers. This is not the case for projects coming under the Aid and Trade Provision.

Therefore, the ATP projects do not face the same rigorous checks as other aid schemes. The question worrying many aid experts is not whether ATP projects pass some "test of minimum development soundness" but whether the limited aid budget is used as effectively as it could be.

The aid provided in the recent Mexican and Brazilian deals came out of the ATP. Dame Judith Hart insists that this fund was never intended to increase the aid budget, but to provide a means of aid to countries like Brazil and other rich Mexico, which are near the top of the Third World league table.

Further the Aid and Trade Provision is not separately identified in any public document.

The Indian deal was different from the Mexican and Brazilian ones because

aid money did not come out of the ATP, but it also has some disconcerting features. To begin with, when the deal was effectively sewn up during the Prime Minister's visit to India last spring, the usual appraisal had not even been carried out.

Of the £150m of aid provided for this project, some £50m has come out of the regular aid to India, and another £100m has come from within the aid budget. ODA officials say that without the aid project is not being financed from the ATP, it is actually being treated just as if it was. The distinction is thus becoming blurred.

This reflects the policy announcement made by the present Government in early 1980 that in future greater

weight would be given to political, commercial and industrial criteria in judging all aid proposals.

It is evident from ministerial statements that the jobs created in Scotland, the Midlands and the North of England by the Indian deal were a primary motive behind the Government's support for it. Whereas "tying" aid to trade has in the past been used as a means of reducing the cost of giving aid, it now increasingly appears as an instrument for supplementing Britain's regional and industrial policy. At a time when public spending on regional aid is being slashed, using the aid budget in this way clearly has attractions.

It avoids the embarrassment of an awkwardly anti-interventionist Government having to increase its spending on industrial support. It also avoids the embarrassment of having — within a fixed level of overall spending — to make corresponding cuts in the aid budget.

There is, however, one further complication. The major industrial countries have agreed between themselves a set of rules and codes to regulate low-interest export credits and prevent an export

credit war. These rules set a floor to the level of interest rates that can be charged. They are also aimed at making countries more honest when they mix export credit and aid together.

But there is a loophole. The rules do not apply if the aid and credit terms are a certain threshold of generosity. Beyond that threshold, the projects are classed as part of an aid programme and not as commercial projects.

This was the case in the recent British deals in spite of the powerful commercial motivation behind the generosity. Overseas competitors are bound to view this as sharp practice.

Department of Trade officials argue that Britain has no worse than most other countries. Indeed, we have been reluctantly forced to adopt practices that have been long employed by the French, the Belgians, the Austrians and Japanese — all of whom are past-masters at circumventing international rules.

There is a great deal of justification in this argument, although Britain is not as white as Department of Trade officials sometimes claim.

Figures produced by the OECD show that in 1980 the industrial nations provided at least \$5,500m in interest rate subsidies to overseas customers. As interest rates have risen, so has the subsidy. Some £2,300m was provided by France alone. Such subsidies cost Britain \$1,000m. The figures for the United States and Japan were respectively \$315m and \$55m.

These subsidies are not only expensive for the taxpayer — they distort trade and lead to the misallocation of resources. Department of Trade officials reply that Britain can not afford to take a purist attitude in present conditions.

But at the very least it might be expected that the Government will make its policy objectives transparently clear. As well as the instruments for pursuing them — so that the benefits and disadvantages of the chosen course of action can be the more readily judged.

Melvyn Westlake

## Business Diary: Who will fit that LT bill?

Hottest public service job of the week must be Sir Peter Macdonald at London Transport, canny as these bones of supplementary rates demands being lit all over the Appeal Court ruling.

The chairman's job pays £24,900, becomes vacant in January and the main qualification, says Lord Denning, seems to be a strong right arm with which to throw the weight of the Transport (London) Act in the general direction of Ken Livingstone and County Hall.

The court case is hard lines on Sir Peter. He came to LT in August 1980 from British Caledonian (he remains deputy chairman of Caledonian) on the strict understanding that he was a caretaker helping to polish Sir Horace Culler's ruthless management.

Sir Peter was persuaded to stay on after the Tories vacated County Hall last May, uncomfortable though he is sandwiched between an unyielding Department of Transport in Marsham Street and big spenders on the South Bank.

His rewards, to have his competence called into question by a bewigged Appeal Court judge.

The obvious candidate for

the job — on a five year contract — would be a natural transport engineer. These being runs, the early betting was on a complete outsider for the job — Alan Fisher of NYPE, a former chairman of the Transport and General Workers Union, and NYPE is well represented on the County Hall benches behind Ken Livingstone.

Lord Denning may now now accuse the council to play safe. Sir Peter has five full-time colleagues on LT's board; at least two of them — David Quarby, MD for buses and Tony Ridley, MD for rail — have had careers that might justify the promotion.

### Clean sweep?

A 100 smoking commuter entraining at Leatherhead could find no ashtray in any of the five smoking carriages. On arrival at Waterloo, therefore, he sought out a British Rail official to complain about the mess in which passengers were obliged to travel because there were no ashtrays. The official said: "We have removed them all to make it easier for our cleaners to do their jobs. Smokers should stop smoking and then there would be no mess."

Be even drier if there were no passengers. But there would still be cleaners, I'll bet.

Hand it to me

The big surprise Ingeborg Kopp (above) pulled out of the bag when we went to see her in Mayfair yesterday is that unless she comes to an agreement with her father over the control of the family business, she will be packing her bags. Miss Kopp is chief executive and father Adolf founder-president of Compas Kederwaren, the makers of hand-made horse-hair and other natural horse-hair goods which retail here at between £200 and £2,000 a time.

"I will go", Miss Kopp told

me, "and I will stay away until he does agree."

Miss Kopp, who is 40 and has worked in the family firm since she was 17, says she has given the 73-year patriarch three weeks to hand over day-to-day control.

She is responsible for design and sales, her father being the production man. Brother Peter, 32, no longer works for the firm.

Miss Kopp told me that of the 400 or so employees she had on show with her in London only one was for men. British men considered them effeminate, she said, as if her Aunt Wiederscheiters aren't over yet.

self-consciously macho ladies do not.

Miss Kopp is in London on her way back to Frankfurt after a three-month sales trip around the world, something she has done twice a year for the last 20 years.

"It sounds very glamorous and I do find it very exciting, but you know, the sad thing about it is you're always having to say 'goodbye'." she told me.

This, says Miss Kopp, is her last such trip. But unless she changes her eye of sight with Father when she gets home, it looks as if her Aunt Wiederscheiters aren't over yet.

### Gathers no mosque

It is not often that a jet plane contributes to the peace of mind of the people it flies over, but such is the case with a British Airways Boeing 747 which passed through the Seychelles recently.

The Islamic community there is building a new mosque but the work was held up because nobody in the islands had equipment sophisticated enough to pinpoint the bearing of Mecca.

Enter the 747 on a stop-over, with its inertial navigation system. BA staff there fed the coordinates of the mosque and of Mecca into the works, and came out with an answer that satisfied the community and work may now proceed.

Any reciprocal divine intervention which might help BA find its financial bearings could be much appreciated.

Reader Mrs D Phillips has been at the purs again in view of the Metro strike, she asks, should not the Midlands now be renamed the Figue District?

Ross Davies

## North British Properties Results 1981

Rental income	£1,953,000	(£1,817,000)
Profit before tax	£1,518,000	(£1,553,000)
Profit after tax	£ 789,000	(£ 663,000)
Total dividend per share	3.1p	(2.8p)
Earnings per share	6.09p	(5.12p)

North British Properties p.l.c. is a property development and investment company with its headquarters based in Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Activities comprise the development of retail, office and warehouse/industrial properties, either for retention in the Group's portfolio or for sale to institutional investors.

For a copy of NBP's Annual Report 1981 write to the Company Secretary, North British Properties Ltd, Bulman House, The Regent Centre, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 3NG.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
North British Properties p.l.c. **NBP**



## FINANCIAL NEWS

## GEORGE H. SCHOLES &amp; CO. LTD.

WYLEX WORKS, WYTHENSHAW, MANCHESTER M22 4RA

Manufacturers of Wylex Electrical Products



Main points from the circulated Statement of Mr. G. R. C. McDowell, for the year ended 30th June 1981.

	1981	1980
Trading Profit	£1,761,955	£2,479,921
Income from Associated Companies	£23,825	—
Interest on Short Term Deposits	—	£2,988
Profit before taxation	£1,785,780	£2,482,909
Taxation	£884,189	£921,288
Profit after taxation	£901,591	£1,561,621
Dividends per share (net)	15.52p	18.62p

\* During the year we have continued to pursue export markets and in order to further penetrate the Far East, we have purchased an interest in PDL (Asia) Sdn. Bhd. from PDL Holdings Ltd. of Christchurch, New Zealand. PDL (Asia) Sdn. Bhd. has now changed its name to PDL-Wylex Sdn. Bhd. and will continue to manufacture a range of electrical accessories to British Standards in Malaysia. In addition, our full range of consumer units will be assembled in Malaysia next month and a range of earth leakage circuit breakers will be introduced by the Company before the end of 1981. This is a very exciting project which will enable us to gain a significant presence in the growing South East Asian Market.

\* Another interesting development during the year was the formation of WSK (Electrical) Ltd. This Company is a joint venture with our Licenses Brown Boveri et Cie Ag. of Germany and a new 20,000 square foot factory commenced operation at Glenrothes in Fife, Scotland in July to manufacture a full range of current limiting miniature circuit breakers for use by both Companies, to be followed later in the year by a range of products in the low voltage technology range.

\* Although last year has been one of the most difficult trading periods in the Company's history the good results for the second half enabled us to meet our forecasts. Our rationalisation and investment programme carried out during the last 12 months has strengthened the Company and we look forward to a greater penetration of home and export markets during the coming year.

## Chloride slashes deficit

By Drew Johnston

A decline in pre-tax losses at Chloride Group from £5.1m last year to £2.7m this year has been described as 'steady progress' by chairman Sir Alastair Pilkington.

The group operating profit of £6.5m for the six months ended September 30, 1981 has improved on the operating profit of £2.6m in the first half of 1980-81 and the £1.9m in the second half of last year.

No interim dividend has been declared on the ordinary shares as a result of the continuing losses though a dividend on the preference stock will be paid at a rate of 2.1 per cent.

Sir Alastair said yesterday that the group held or increased its market shares in all major areas, with the total sales volume of the rising slightly on the first half of last year.

Sales of car batteries were significantly higher in the United Kingdom, North America and overseas.

Unit sales of batteries in



Sir Alastair Pilkington, chairman of Chloride.

Europe and in the United Kingdom were badly hit by the recession and lower levels of industrial activity. The increase in total group turnover from £171.1m to £191.3m is largely

the result of exchange rate effects on non-United Kingdom business.

Sir Alastair went on to say that control of cash was still the company's major priority.

Chloride has reduced its shareholding in its South African subsidiary, Chloride Holdings SA, from 70 to just over 50 per cent. In Australia, Australian Mining and Smelting bought over 14 per cent of Chloride's ordinary shares and took up their rights for 14.9 per cent of the cumulative convertible preference shares.

Australian Mining is a subsidiary of Rio Tinto Zinc. Chloride's newly-developed lead-acid battery, which needs no maintenance throughout its useful life is now in production. Sir Alastair said that with a reconstructed senior management team and a cost-cutting exercise carried out in all parts of the group, the company is well placed to take advantage of improved conditions.

## CES diversifies

By Paul Malmind

Combined English Stores Group, the specialist retailers, whose interests include the Harry Fenton menswear chain and Salisbury Handbags, has diversified into package camping holidays by acquiring Cheshire-based Eurocamp Travel.

CES is paying an initial consideration of £2.99m, which will be adjusted to four times Eurocamp's pretax profits for this year, and increased or decreased by the difference between this year's pretax profits and those of the next three years.

Eurocamp has increased its

pretax profits from £85,000 at the end of 1978 to £200,000 at the end of last year. Profits for this year are expected to be around £800,000. Its net tangible assets at December 31 were £894,000.

CES has issued unlimited redeemable secured loan stock to meet the initial consideration, which will carry interest at 2 per cent below base rate.

Mr Tony Haygarth, financial director of CES, said Eurocamp was a young company with growth potential and would provide CES with seasonal summer earnings.

## Wolseley profits fall 49pc

A profits drop of 49 per cent from £15m to £8m has been reported by Wolseley-Hughes, central heating specialists, for the year to July 31. It also suffered a sales downturn from £193m to £179m.

But lower interest rates and the release of over £3m of deferred taxation provisions has swollen post tax earnings of the Worcester-based group from £3.6m to £10.1m. As a result the group has increased its dividend from 11.57p gross to 13.35p gross.

This represents a 10 per cent overall rise in dividends from 17.85p gross to 19.64p gross, and Mr Jeremy Lancaster, group chairman, said yesterday it was the board's intention to match, or beat, inflation whenever possible.

Strict cash control in the year led to a positive cash flow of £4.9m and the elimination of the group's overdraft. Also, by the year end, this policy of retrenchment reduced the level of gearing to just 2.4 per cent.

Mr Lancaster said these results had been achieved despite the fall-off in business of the group's overdrift. Also, by the year end, this policy of retrenchment reduced the level of gearing to just 2.4 per cent.

The agricultural division was also badly hit by the recession, though record results were recorded by Farmco, hardware manufacturers, despite a drop in sales volume.

According to Mr Lancaster, more hopeful performance from McConnel, power tools manufacturers, and Archie Kidd, electrical equipment makers, had raised expectations of a marked improvement in the division's future performance.

## 'W' Ribbons cuts loss to £320,000

Pretax losses at 'W' Ribbons Holdings, manufacturers of webbing and cargo-handling equipment, have been cut from £1.2m to £320,000 for the twelve months to June 30.

Sales fell from £15.2m to £10.5m following the disposal of the German seat-belts division in March last year. Trading profit was £335,000, against a loss last year of £442,000. The company says this reflects a reduction in overheads and a rationalization of production facilities. The figures include £77,000 relating to the closure of the Cryon plant and the transfer of the unit's activities to the main weaving plant in South Wales.

The loss per share was reduced from 21.6p to 5.82p. The board says borrowings are now considerably lower and the company is well placed to improve its views the future with increasing optimism. It is again passing a dividend.

## Preussag raises its AMC stake to 85 pc

By Our Financial Staff

Preussag, the West German industrial holding company, yesterday disclosed that it had raised its stake in Amalgamated Metal Corporation, the international metals group, from 79.5 per cent to 85.35 per cent.

The shares were bought in the stock market last Friday, according to informed sources, after Preussag withdrew its formal offer early in the morning to buy out the remaining holders of some 20 per cent of AMC.

Under a scheme of arrangement, Preussag was offering to buy out the minority holdings of AMC at 400p, cash a share. But with AMC's principal asset being tin smelting in Malaysia, a Malaysian government agency, Permodalan Nasional, bid 550p cash for the shares.

On the stock market last Friday AMC's shares were parti-

cularly active and moved between 560p and 613p. The Malaysians bought about 10 per cent of AMC's shares, Preussag purchased a further 5 per cent before withdrawing. Yesterday the shares were steady at 555p.

Preussag is also taking a 25.1 per cent stake in the increased share capital of a West German company, C. Dellmann AG. The stake will be achieved via an increase in the share capital of Dellmann's present DM 88m share capital and nominal purchases of Dellmann shares, providing the deal is agreed by the federal cartel office.

Preussag's group turnover totalled DM 95.4m in 1980. The company is involved in the exploration and production of crude oil, while its subsidiaries are involved in uranium mining and specialist mining technology.

## New Trust will invest in Australian companies

Lloyds Bank International is to make an offer for sale for a new trust, New Australia Investment Trust, of 5m ordinary 50p shares for subscription at 100p each. The trust will concentrate on medium-sized Australian firms with growth potential, mainly those in the provision of services to the natural resources sector.

Clients of Vickers de Costa, the brokers to the issue, intend to apply for 3m shares; these applications will be met in full. The remaining 2m shares will be available for subscription.

## Fosco Minsep

We would like to point out that although only 66.7 per cent of Fosco Minsep's shares offered by rights were taken up by shareholders, the rest were sold in the market, just above the offer price and, left with the underwriters, as suggested in Wednesday's paper.

## Argyll-Lindood

At the proposed takeover of Lindood by Argyll Foods has been referred to the Monopolies Commission, the offer has now lapsed. Argyll's board is reviewing, with its advisers, the implications of the referral.

## Allied London

In the year to June 30, 1981, pretax profits of Allied London Properties, which took over Gough Cooper in 1980, rose by 16.9 per cent to £1.6m.

## Bellway holds payout despite fall

By Peter Wainwright

Bellway, which failed to merge with fellow Newcastle housebuilder William Leech to form what would have been our fourth largest residential development group last June, yesterday pleased the market with its figures for the year to last July. The shares rose 4p to 84p but they are still well away from the 1981 peak of 103p.

Turnover rose from £25.3m to £26.9m in a difficult year, and a £500,000 rise in interest was partly to blame for the fall in pretax profits from 7.7m to £1.8m. Earnings, a share duly plunged from 26.6p to 9.7p but dealers were pleased with the decision to maintain the gross dividend at 10.0p a share. Pretax profits, adjusted for inflation were £744,000. The dividend absorbed £307,000.

The group reports that during the year more stress was placed on the first-time buyer market. This was reflected both in new home building and in the revamping of older property.

A breakdown shows that first-half profits were £217,000 before tax. But the second half saw an upsurge to £1.56m. The year before, the figures were £1.8m and £1.56m respectively.

## Allied Irish Banks slowed by high costs

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Half-year results from Allied Irish Banks show an increase in pretax profits from £12.29m to £12.95m in the period to September 30. During the previous six months to March 31, the group made £12.95m before tax.

Allied Irish said that business had expanded over the period, although the outcome was somewhat disappointing. Increased costs and a higher bad-debt provision meant that profits did not grow in line with the increased activity and the higher level of capital employed. The balance sheet at the end of September showed total assets of £14,746m, compared with £14,492m six months earlier and £13,681m a year ago.

The bank was also affected by Central Bank guidelines on lending in the Republic of Ireland which limited the increase in lending and Allied Irish said that resources growth was not as buoyant as had been hoped. "In the present difficult economic climate, we do not anticipate any upswing in profits in the second half of the year," Allied Irish said.

In May, Allied Irish raised £12.5m through a rights issue to fund future growth and it

had benefited from this issue which was completed in June and the liquid position of the group was strong.

At the time of the rights issue, Allied Irish undertook to maintain the dividend on the enlarged share capital. The unchanged half-year dividend of 4.55p gross will absorb £14.7m compared with £13.7m a year ago. After an estimated six change of £18.9m, which includes provisions totalling £14.9m for the group's share of the recent special levy on banks, the profits for the six months show a £1.15m reduction to £12.06m on the previous six months.

Fully-diluted earnings, per share were 16.4p, compared with 19.5p in the previous half and 14.8p in the same period a year ago.

Under inflation-accounting, the current-cost profit before tax falls to £11.12m and the profit attributable to shareholders is reduced from £12.06m to £12.3m in the current-cost accounts.

The balance sheet shows an increase in advances during the last six months to September 30 from £12,435m to £12,536m.

## Associated British Foods

## Half Year Progress Report

The Directors of Associated British Foods Limited announce unaudited profits for the six months ended 26th September 1981.

	Six months to 26 September 1981	Six months to 27 September 1980	Year to 28 March 1981
	£000	£000	£000
Sales to Customers	1,406,000	1,197,000	2,574,000
Trading Surplus	88,800	70,500	172,300
Less Depreciation	22,900	19,400	42,500
Group Profit	65,900	51,100	129,700
Less Interest Charges	8,000	6,900	14,800
Profit before Tax	57,900	44,300	114,900
Less United Kingdom Tax	6,700	6,500	15,100
Overseas Tax	12,000	7,100	17,400
Profit after Tax	39,200	30,600	82,400
Less Minority Interests	9,400	5,300	15,200
	29,800	25,300	67,200
Add Extraordinary Items	2,000	2,800	(100)
	31,800	28,100	67,100
Preference dividends	20	20	40
Ordinary dividends			
1st Interim	5,033	4,311	4,311
2nd Interim	—	—	9,346
Earnings per share before extraordinary items	8.29p	7.04p	18.70p

An interim dividend of 1.4p (1980-1.2p) will be paid on 8 March 1982 to shareholders registered at the close of business on 8 February 1982. Including tax credits this dividend is equivalent to 2.0p (1980-1.71p) per share.

## The Chairman Mr. GARRY WESTON reports:

Worldwide sales for the half year have increased by £209 million or 17 per cent. In view of the wide fluctuations in the rates of exchange during the past six months, the results of our overseas subsidiaries have been converted at the rates ruling at the end of our last financial year. Australian and South African results have been converted at 1.92 dollars and 1.79 rands to the pound respectively.

Profit before tax at £57.9 million is £13.7 million or 31 per cent higher when compared with last year, whilst the earnings per ordinary share are 1.25p higher at 8.29p. The group's strong cash flow has enabled the level of capital expenditure to be further increased without additional borrowings, with a modest further increase in interest charges being due to the higher interest rates overseas.

For the first time profits earned outside the United Kingdom represent more than 50 per cent of the group's total for the period. Overseas sales increased by 33 per cent and profits before tax by 65 per cent from £19.3 million to £31.9 million. Excellent growth both in sales and profits was reported by all overseas divisions.

In the United Kingdom more modest growth of 9 per cent on sales and 4 per cent on profits was achieved. Following the group's policy of accounting for reorganization and redundancy costs, nearly £2 million has been charged against the trading profits of the manufacturing divisions for the first half year, which has served to depress their results marginally to below profit figures achieved last year.

Our retail divisions have continued to report good growth in volume as well as in value of sales. This has contributed to further satisfactory improvement in operating margins.

After a good start we remain optimistic about the Group results for the year, although we are fully aware of the competitive pressures in this country in particular on manufacturing and retail margins which will increasingly affect our results in the months ahead.

In looking forward to further growth in the second half of the year, we must note the exceptional achievements of our companies overseas during a similar period last year, and appreciate that the growth included a significant recovery in the trading results of one of our major overseas divisions. In the months ahead we will, therefore, be striving to improve on already high figures.

## Current Cost Accounts for the six months to 26th September

	1981	1980
Profit before tax	£33 million	£24 million
Profit attributable to shareholders	£8 million	£4 million
Earnings per share	8.29p	7.04p

The accounts have been debited in respect of depreciation £20 million (£16 million) and cost of sales £16 million (£15 million). Credits have been made in respect of monetary working capital £5 million (£5 million) and a gearing adjustment of £6 million (£6 million). The revised minority interest is £6 million (£5 million) and the extraordinary items are nil (£1 million).

## ZETTERS GROUP

	Year ended 31.3.81
Group turnover (before payments to winners and betting duty)	£ 26m
Profit before taxation	£1.85m
Profit after taxation	£698,266
Final dividend of 1.5p per share together with interim dividend paid in April and the uncredited dividend of 0.5p per share, an increase of 100p over last year's dividend.	
Earnings per share	10.50p

Points from the Statement of the Chairman, Mr. Paul Zetter C.B.E. The half year's profits were not materially different to the previous year. Nevertheless, we are again able to claim a record, albeit by the narrowest of margins.

Future. Severe increased postal charges, increase in tax on Bingo and the effect of the unemployment on spending capacity, will bring about an inevitable reduction of profit of approximately 30% during the first six months of this financial year. However, I believe that the second half will show a much more favourable trend and will be in line with the same period last year.



## Nine months' results

The results for the nine months ended 30th September, 1981, estimated and subject to audit, are compared below with those for the similar period in 1980, which are restated at 31st December 1980 rates of exchange; also shown are the actual results for the full year 1980.

It must be emphasised that the results for the interim period do not necessarily provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

	9 Months to 30.9.81 Estimate £ Millions	9 Months to 30.9.80 Estimate £ Millions	Year 1980 Actual £ Millions
Net written premiums—General Business	789.1	655.2	876.0
Investment Income	117.3	86.9	119.3
Underwriting Results—General Business	(35.0)	(21.1)	(27.0)
Long Term Insurance Profits	2.8	2.0	3.0
Loan Interest and Employee Profit Sharing Scheme	85.1	67.8	95.3
Profit before Tax and Minority Interests	2.4	2.1	3.0
Taxation	82.7	65.7	92.3
Minority Interests and Preference Dividend	26.1	20.8	25.9
Net Profit attributable to Shareholders	1.0	0.8	1.1
Earnings per Ordinary Share	55.6	44.1	65.3
Principal exchange rates used in converting overseas results			
U.S.A.	33.8p	26.9p	39.8p
Canada	\$1.81	\$2.39	\$2.39
	\$2.18	\$2.85	\$2.85

Net written premiums and investment income increased in sterling terms by 20.4% and 35.0% respectively. Adjusted to exclude the effects of currency fluctuations, the increases were 6.7% and 18.4% respectively. The substantial deterioration of sterling over the period has had a material effect on pre-tax profits. If 31st December 1980 rates had still applied, these profits would have been £8m. less.

In the third quarter there was an underwriting profit of £3.1m in the United Kingdom as compared with a profit of £1.1m in the same period of 1980. The U.S.A. incurred a loss of £3.9m (1980, £0.3m loss) and major losses were reported also by Canada, Australia and Europe. Overall the third quarter loss was £11.8m (1980, £3.7m loss) and this was adversely affected by the significant decline in sterling.

For the nine months, net premiums written in the United Kingdom amounted to £321.6m (1980, £314.5m) and there was an underwriting profit of £5.4m (1980, £5.8m loss). There was a profit of £4.4m in the Motor account (1980, £3.5m loss) and the Industrial Fire account produced a very good result. The Home-owners account is not yet profitable but continues to improve.

For the nine months, net premiums written in the United States were \$501m (1980, \$476m) with an operating ratio of 104.86% as compared with 101.41% for the same period in 1980. On the United Kingdom accounting basis, there was an underwriting loss of £16.3m (1980, £4.7m loss). Although improving through the year, all major lines continue unprofitable and show deterioration as compared with 1980.

Elsewhere for the nine months, underwriting losses were incurred in all major territories, and experience in Europe, although improved on 1980, is now deteriorating.



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**Salient Figures**

	1981 £000	1980 £000	1979 £000	1978 £000	1977 £000
Turnover	488,200	439,380	381,031	304,223	268,267
Dividend per share	25.00p	15.40p	7.70p	5.304p	4.75p

**Historical Cost Accounts**

Profit before Tax*	51,035	34,167	31,516	25,576	20,468
Dividend cover	3.0 times	3.3 times	6.4 times	7.5 times	7.4 times
Net assets per share	510p	412p	248p	219p	184p

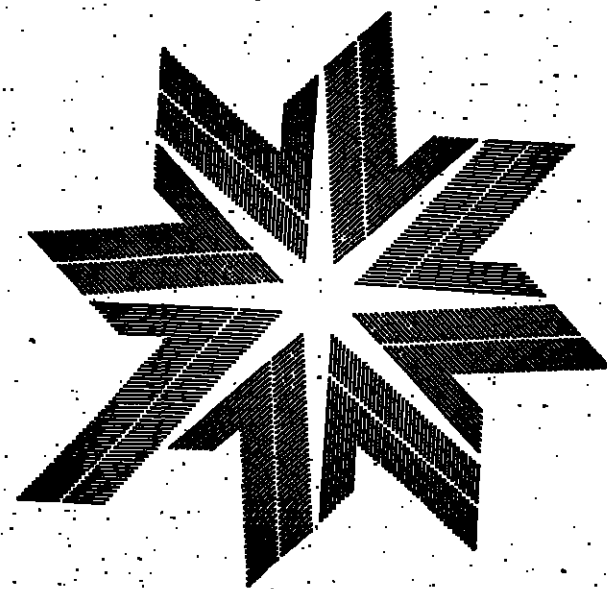
**Current Cost Accounts**

Profit before Tax*	37,898	18,890	16,005	14,446	13,416
Dividend cover	2.1 times	1.6 times	3.0 times	4.0 times	4.7 times
Net assets per share	716p	632p	572p	408p	358p

\*Profit on ordinary activities and before extraordinary charge.

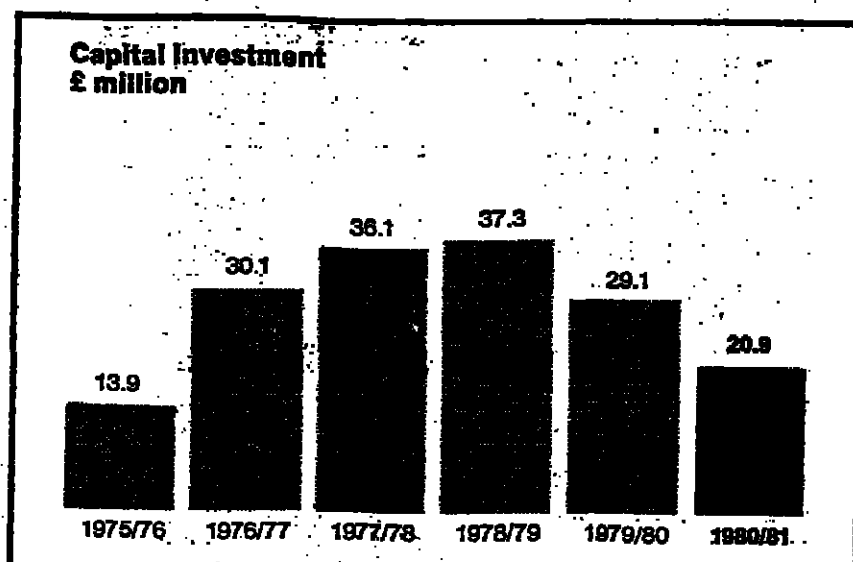
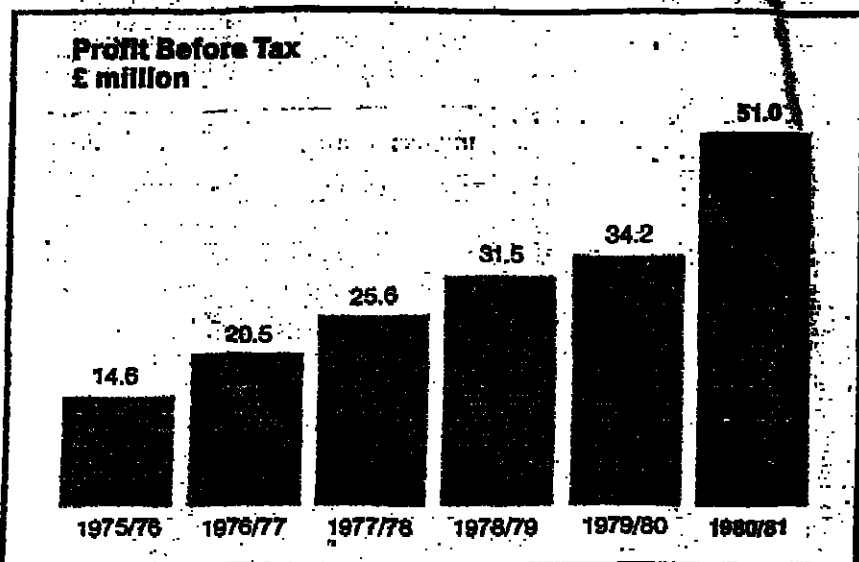
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Malta	Luton	Hotel BB	3	7	2.11 Dec	£109
		2 bed apt. SC 3	3	14	2.11 Dec	£109
Tenerife	Getwick	1 bed apt. BB 3	3	11	1.8 Dec	£109
		2 bed apt. SC 3	3	14	2.11 Dec	£109
Majorca	Luton or Getwick	Hotel BB	2	7	5.12 Dec	£95
		2 bed apt. SC 3	2	14	5.12 Dec	£95
Costa Blanca	Getwick	Hotel BB	3	7	6.12 Dec	£89
		2 bed apt. SC 3	3	14	6.12 Dec	£89
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		2 bed apt. SC 3	3	14	5.12 Dec	£113

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## ROME FROM £117

Milan from £115. Rome



**Edited by Peter Davalle**

## Radio 2

10.00 Susannah Simonis; 12.00 John  
Dunn; 2.00 Ed Stewart; 4.00 David  
Hamilton; 5.45 News; 6.00 David  
Symonds; 5.00 Country Club; 8.00  
Alan Deal; 10.00 The News Headlines;  
10.50 Star Search; 11.00 60 Min  
Watch from midnight; 1.00 am  
Trucker's Hour; 2.00-5.00 You and  
the Night and the Music.

**Radio 1**

5.00 As Radio 2; 7.00 Mike Read; 9.00  
Simon Bates; 11.30 Dave Lee Travis;  
1.00 pm Paul Burnett; 3.30 Steve  
Wright; 5.00 Peter Power; 5.30  
News; 6.00 Top 30 Album Chart.

[illegible]

**ANGLIA**

As Thames except 1.20 pm-1.30  
News 4.00 Vicky The Video 4.45-5.15

**Crossroads. 7.00-8.30 Film:**  
Appointment in Honduras (Glenn Ford, Ann Sheridan). A passenger on board ship is carrying a large sum of money for the deposed president of a small country. 11.00 Talking bikes. 11.30 Hagen. 12.25 am Your choice.

## GRAMPAIN

As Themes except: Starts 9.25 am  
 First Things, 1.20 pm-1.30 News, 4.20  
 Further Adventures of Oliver Twist,  
 4.50-5.20 The House of the Prairie, 5.20  
 The Stage, 6.00 North Tonight, 5.30 Police  
 News, 6.35 Crossroads, 7.00 Electric  
 Blue, 7.30-8.00 The House of the Prairie, 8.00-8.30  
 May Pygmy, 11.00 Talking  
 Gipsies, 11.30 Seachd Lathain, 11.45  
 HWAT, 12.40 am News.

## GRANADA

As Themes except: 1.20 pm-1.30  
 News, 4.20 Further Adventures of  
 Oliver Twist, 4.50-5.20  
 The House of the Prairie, 6.00  
 The Stage, 6.30-7.00 North Tonight,  
 7.00-7.30 Crossroads, 7.00 Take  
 the Stage, 7.30-8.00 Charlie's Angels,  
 8.00-8.30 The House of the Prairie, 8.30-9.00 Your  
 Money Shot, 11.00 Tempus and  
 the Wipers, 11.50 Tempus and  
 Rogers Show, 12.45 am Close-down.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN:  
 \* BLACK AND WHITE; 01 REPEAT

along very nicely, though I'm not convinced that having a different writer every week is wise. It's a shame that the high unemployment rate, the price can be high: fluctuating continuity — despite the ministrations of an unchanging (and largely excellent) cast and a constant production team — has made there a change of director after episode five. A cool clearing in Dorset woodland stands in most convincingly for a sweaty Far Eastern prison camp, but the mosquito buzz sounds a bit low-powered to me.

♦ UNDER MILK WOOD (Radio 3, 7.45pm) is not Douglas Cleverdon's pioneering production of the early 1950s — the standard by which all

heard in 1978. Much fuss was then made of the fact that this was recorded in the newly-perfected quadraphonic sound system by which Liarsburg sprang up all around our listening post. The same all-encompassing system is used again tonight. This is a perfectly acceptable reading of Dylan's "Under Milk Wood," and its depth of sound is not matched by its depth of vocal characterization; now one misses Hugh Griffith's Captain Cat. The first Voice, formerly Richard Burton's, now belongs to the late, great, and wholly poetical gloss. The Second Voice is Petra Davies's. The new Captain Cat is Gerald James; and Nerys Hughes gives a good account of Polly Garter's infatigably touching stop-

# Classified Guide

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